Living Fountain

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1

Before the Lesson

Consider what I say, and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Paul (2 Timothy 2:7)

Before the exposition of the truth, do not forget to meditate on the lights you receive.

Those who stare up at the sky at a glance, without contemplating it, do not see the stars; and those who hear a symphony, without enclosing with it the acoustics of their soul, cannot notice it divine notes.

In vain will you listen to the inspired words of enlightened preachers, if you do not open your heart, so your feeling plunges into the blessed light of such words.

Countless followers of the Gospel complain of their inability to retain the teachings of the Good News, alleging that they feel unable before the new revelations; but this happens because they do not pay much attention to the lesson they hear, spending a long time in the domains of distraction and levity.

When the room remains dark, we are the ones, who open the windows latch, for the sun to visit us. Let us devote some effort to the grace of the lesson, and the lesson will respond to us with its graces.

The Apostle of the Gentiles is clear in the remark:

"Consider what I say, and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

'Considering' means examining, attending, reflecting, and appreciating.

Therefore, let us be sure that if we pay attention to the notices on the Eternal Life Code, the Lord, in return for our goodwill, will give us an understanding of everything.

2

Way of Doing

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

Paul (Philippians 2:5)

Everyone does something in human life; but rare are those who do not turn back to the flesh, to undo what they did.

Even the idle individual, who spent the time between uselessness and laziness, is constrained to revert to the fight, to disintegrate the network of inertia that he created around himself.

Man, only constructs something, without the need for repair or correction, if he inspires himself in the patterns of Jesus to promote the good of his brothers.

Doing something imbued with the spirit of Christ, is always the best for everyone, with:

No expectation of remuneration. No demands

No showing off.

No tributes of superiority.

No tributes in recognition of anything.

No disturbances.

In all the steps of the Divine Master, we see Him in incessant action, in benefit for the individual and the community, without getting entangled in any moment.

From the carpentry of Nazareth, to the cross of Jerusalem, He walks, doing the good, without another gratification beyond the joy of performing the Father's Will.

He exalts the widow's dime and praises the fortune of Zacchaeus, with the same serenity.

Jesus talks lovingly with some little children, and calmly He multiplies the bread for thousands of people.

He brings Lazarus back from the tomb, and walks into the prison, with the attention focused on the Celestial Designs.

Remember to act for the common well-being, in the infinite line of your days and hours. However, help everyone, without distinction; preserving, above all, the glory to be helpful, so that the illusion does not impose on you the gall of disenchantment or solitude, so:

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

3

In the Great Pilgrimage

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."

Paul (Hebrews 11:8)

As in the case of Abraham, the apprentice of the Gospel is called by faith to the sublime inheritance, which is reserved for him.

The call reaches everyone.

The great Hebrew patriarch left, without knowing where he was going...

And we, in turn, should lift our hearts and depart equally.

We ignore the contact stations on the long journey, but we are aware that our aim is Jesus Christ.

How often shall we be constrained to tread upon the thorns of slander?

How often will we walk the rough path of incomprehension? How many rainfalls of tears will reach our spirits?

And how many clouds will be interposed, between our thoughts and the Heaven, in the broad stretches of the path?

Insoluble answer. However, one always needs to go, determinedly, through the inner way of redemption. Today, it is the intense sweating, tomorrow the responsibility, later on, the suffering, and then, loneliness...

Still, it is indispensable to go on, without discouragement.

When it is not possible to walk two steps a day, let us move ahead, at least a few millimeters...

The vanguard opens up in new horizons of understanding and goodness, spiritual enlightenment, and progress in virtue.

Let us go up, without rest, the rugged mountain: By overcoming deserts and difficulties...

Crossing fogs... Removing obstacles...

Abraham obeyed, ignoring where he was going to, and found the fulfillment of happiness.

Let us obey, in turn, conscious of our destination, and certain that the Lord awaits us, beyond our cross, in the resplendent summits of endless resurrection.

4

Each One

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

Paul (1 Corinthians 12:4)

In every place and position, each one can reveal divine qualities for the edification of those with whom they live together.

Learning and teaching constitute tasks of every moment, so we can cooperate in the aggrandizement of the common treasury of wisdom and love.

He who manages, can more often express justice and magnanimity.

He who obeys has broader resources to demonstrate the well- performed duty.

The richer, more than the others, can multiply the work and share the blessings.

The poor, with more wideness, can ameliorate the fortune of hope and dignity.

The strong one can easily be more generous at any moment.

The weak can be humble on any occasion, with no embarrassment.

The sage, with a rich body of knowledge, can help everyone by renewing the general thought for the right.

The apprentice, with multiplied opportunities, can always distribute a wealth of goodwill.

The healthy, ordinarily, can project charity in all directions.

The sick, with more security, can bring the lessons of patience to the general environment.

The gifts differ; the intelligence is characterized by several degrees; the merit presents multiple values, and the capacity is the result of each one's effort; but the Divine Spirit that sustains the creatures is substantially the same.

We are all capable of achieving much, in the sphere of work we find ourselves.

Observe the position you are now in, and meet the imperatives of the Infinite Good. Place the Divine Will above your desires, and the Divine Will shall count on your participation in Its designs.

5

Can You Go?

"Come unto me…"

Jesus (Matthew 11:28)

The believer listens to the Master's invitation, receiving blessed consolation. The one responsible for the indoctrination repeats it to convey vibrations of spiritual comfort to the listeners.

Everyone hears the words of Christ, which insist that the restless minds and tormented hearts seek His refreshing bosom...

Though, if it is easy to hear and repeat the Lord's "Come unto Me", how difficult is to go to Him!

Here, the words of the Master pour forth as a vitalizing balm; nevertheless, the ties of immediate convenience are too strong; beyond, one can feel the divine invitation, amidst promises of renewal for the redemptive journey.

Still, the prison of discouragement isolates the spirit, through resistant bars; farther, the call of the Upper Father, softens the pain of a disillusioned soul, but the liberation from the impediments constituted by people and things, situations, and individual interests, apparently unavoidable, is almost impracticable.

Jesus, our Savior, extends His loving and compassionate arms to us. With Him, life will be enriched by imperishable values, and in the shadow of His celestial teachings, we will go, through s anctifying work, towards the Universal Homeland...

All believers register His comforting, calling, but rare are sufficiently valiant in faith, to seek His companionship. In short, it is very sweet to hear the "Come to me."

Nevertheless, in truth, are you able to go?

6

Accept the Correction

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Paul (Hebrews 12:11)

The earth, under the pressure of the plow, gets ripped and lacerated; yet, within a brief time, flowers and delicious fruits sprout from its rectified windrows.

The tree, in pruning time, loses vast reserves of sap, becoming undernourished and ugly; despite that, in a few weeks, it is covered with new robustness, empowered with beauty and abundance.

The humble water abandons the coziness of the fountain, suffers the setbacks of the movement, reaches the great river, and then shares the greatness of the sea.

Just like it happens in the simple dimension of Nature, it also happens in the complex realm of soul. The correction is always rude, unpleasant, and bitter; but in those who accept its light, it always results in blessed fruits of experience, knowledge, understanding, and justice.

The earth, the tree, and the water, tolerates it, through constraint; however, the Man, champion of intelligence on the Planet, is free to receive the correction and give shelter to it in his own heart.

For this very reason, the problem of personal happiness will never be solved with the escape from the repair process.

The heavenly correction is manifested in all the angles of the Earth.

Still, rare are those who accept its blessing, because such gift, most of the times, does not come involved in ermine, and when it is brought to the lips, it does not resemble a tasty candy. It is wrapped with spines or mixed with bile, in the manner of healing and salutary medication.

Do not miss, therefore, your precious opportunity for improvement.

Pain and obstacle, work and struggle, are resources of sublimation that we ought to employ in our favor.

7

By the Fruits

"By their fruits, ye shall know them." Jesus (Matthew 7:16)

Not by the size,

Not by the configuration,

Not by the foliage, or the magnificence of the top,

Not by the green sprigs,

Not by the dry ends,

Not by the brighter appearance, the unpleasant presentation, the age of the tree

Not by the fragility of the leaves, the slender or thick bark,

Not by the fragrant or odorless flowers, the attractive scent,

Or the repugnant emanations.

No tree shall be known or loved by outer appearances, but by its fruits, utility, and production. So it is also with our spirit on the journey...

No one, who truly consecrates himself to the truth, will bear witness to us for our manners, for the superficiality of our life, the epidermis of our attitudes or individual expressions, quickly perceived or appreciated, but rather for our cooperation in the common progress, and the importance of our participation in the general welfare.

"By their fruits, you shall know them," said Jesus.

"By our actions, we shall be known," we repeat.

8

Attentive Workers

"But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it-not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."

James 1:25

The disciple of the Good News, who communes with the Master, above all, understands the obligations assigned to him and sincerely worships the law of freedom, aware that he will reap in the windrows of the world what he has sown. He knows that the judge will respond in court; that the administrator will answer for the stewardship, and the servant will be held accountable for the work that was up to him.

And respecting each work of progress and order, of light and good, in his proper place, one should persevere in taking advantage of the possibilities that he received from Divine Providence, attentive to the lessons of truth, and devoted to the good works, of which he feels in charge, by the Superior Powers of the Earth.

Characterized by such attitude, the server of Christ, whether a statesman or a street cleaner, he is integrated with his duty, in the position of acting and serving, as naturally as he communes with the oxygen, in the act of breathing.

If he is a director, he does not expect others to remind him of the accomplishments that fall to him. If he obeys, he does not need reiterated instructions, regarding his attributions in the regimen of works of any kind.

He does not require that the government of his district has his vegetable garden composted; nor does he await decrees to educate or improve himself.

And respecting each worker of progress and order, of light and good, in its proper place, it perseveres in taking advantage of the possibilities that received from Divine Providence, attentive to the lessons of truth and applied to the good works, of which he feels in charge of the Higher Powers of the Earth.

Strengthening his freedom to learn, to ameliorate himself, and help everyone, through total consecration to the noble tasks that the world brought to him, he is blessed in all his actions, which begin to produce substantial advantages in the prosperity and elevation of the common life.

Such a follower of the Gospel, from an apprentice of the Master, he reaches the category of the attentive workers, entering in glorious silence, the sublime reserves of the Celestial Apostleship.

9

Let Us Be Joyful

"But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

Paul (1Timothy 6:8)

The monopolizer of wheat will feed himself on only a few slices of bread, to satisfy the demands of his appetite on the table.

The textile fabric owner should not spend more than a few meters vestment, for the confection of a garment, intended for his use.

No one should feed, or dress, by the standards of gluttony and vanity, but rather by the principles that govern life in its natural foundations.

Why do you wait for the banquet, to offer some crumbs to the starving brother?

Why do you ask for a treasure trove of coins, in the rearguard, to be useful to the needy?

Charity does not depend on the wallet. It is a fountain born in the heart.

It is always respectable the desire to have something in the money box to help the neighbor, or oneself, on the days of storm and insecurity; yet, it is deplorable the subordination of the good works' practice to the safes crammed with money.

First, open the doors of your soul, and let your feelings warm …

The rain, pouring out in drops, fertilizes the soil and sustains billions of lives.

Let us share the least, and the insignificance of goodwill, supported by love, over time, will become common prosperity...

Some seeds, cared for in the years, may dominate vast lands.

Let us be joyful, and help all those who share the march with us, for, following the wise word of the apostle, if we have the grace to count on the bread and clothes for each day, it falls to us the obligation to live and serve in peace and contentment.

10

Surely

"Surely I am coming soon."

Apocalypse 22:20

Very often, as the human creature breathes in the young flesh, the attitude that characterizes their heart towards life is that of a child who does not know the value of time.

Days and nights are short for diving in fanciful joys and adventures. A thousand deceits of ephemeral illusion obscure their view, and the hours fade into a whirlwind of useless yearnings. Rare are those who escape such a loss.

Though, in general, when maturity comes, and the soul already counts on a relative degree of education, the man readjusts, hastily, the conceptualization of the day.

The week is short for what falls to him to do.

He understands that the same tasks, in the position he finds himself, are repeated in specific months of the year, perfectly recapitulated, just like it happens to the seasons of cold and heat, flowering and fruiting for Nature.

He gets anxious and restless, and he endeavors in the desire to multiply his strength to enrich the minutes or enlarge them, favoring his energies.

And, commonly, at the end of the journey, the death of the body surprises him at the angles of expectations or entertainment, unable to recover the lost years.

Do not get caught up, thus, in the human jungle, unconcerned with your rehabilitation to the spiritual light, in the face of the eternal path.

In the penultimate verse of the New Testament, which is the Letter of Divine Love for humanity, determined the Lord to be recorded by the apostle his solemn promise:

"Certainly, I'll come soon..."

Therefore, use your time wisely, and do not be late in the preparations.

11

Let Us Glorify

"To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen."

Paul (Philippians 4:20)

When the vase left the pottery, it said without words:

— "Blessed is the fire that provided me solidity. "

When the plow left the forge, it said, in silence:

— "Blessed is the mallet that gave me shape."

When the crafted wood started to shine in the palace, it exclaimed, without voice:

— "Blessed is the blade that cuts me cruelly, preparing my beauty."

When the silk glowed, elegantly, in the temple, it affirmed intimately:

— "Blessed be the ugly caterpillar that gave me life."

When the flower bloomed, velvety and sublime, it quickly thanked:

— "Blessed be the dark earth that turned me so perfumed."

When the patient recovered health, he shouted happily:

— "Blessed be the pain that brought me the lesson of balance."

Everything is rich, beautiful, and holy in the house of God.

Let us thank you for the storm that renews, the struggle that perfects, and the suffering that illuminates. The dawn is the wonder of the sky, which comes after the nights on Earth.

In all our difficulties and shadows, may our Father be glorified forever.

12

Impediments

"Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Paul (Hebrews 12:1)

Wherever you go on Earth, carrying the vase of your faith, pouring it out in good works, you will always find impediments in bulk, making your tasks difficult.

Today, it is the failure of the initial attempts of progress. Tomorrow, it will be the fellow that fails.

Later, the hostile persecution of your ideal.

You will feel afflicted with the bile of many lips that deserve your esteem.

From time to time, you will suffer from the incomprehension of others.

Periodically, you will find a thousand obstacles at the forefront, inducing you to inertia or negation.

Despite that, the career they propose to us should unfold on the route of permanent good.

What should we do with people and circumstances that impel us to backwardness and immobility?

The apostle of the Gentiles responds, categorically: "Let us throw off everything that hinders."

Putting the difficulty on the sidelines, though, does not mean despising the opinions of the others when they are respectable; or giving up the common struggle.

It means respecting each individuality in their position; it is sharing the noblest angle of the Good Fight, with our best collaboration for the general improvement.

And, inwardly, in the intimacy of the heart, proceeding with Jesus, today, tomorrow and always, working and serving, learning and loving, until the divine light shines in our consciousness, as much as we are already unconsciously inside it.

13

Let Us Stand Up

"I will arise and go to my father." Luke 15:18

When the prodigal son decided to come back to his paternal arms, he inwardly resolved to stand up.

He decided:

To leave the dark pit of idleness and go to the field of regenerative action.

To rise from the cold ground of inertia and seek the heat of the reconstructive movement.

To emerge from the valley of indecision to the mountain of uplifting service.

To flee from darkness and penetrate the light.

To abandon the position and get himself absorbed in the restructuring of his ideals.

He got up and headed for the Paternal House.

Even so, how many of us, the prodigal sons of Life, after spoiling the best opportunities, cry out for the Lord's help, in line with ourless worthy wishes, aiming just at satisfaction?

How many of us descend voluntarily into the abyss, and there, mired in the darkness of our passions, we demand that God be present, beside us, through His messengers, to make our whims attended?

If it is true, yet, that we find ourselves engaged in our moral elevation, let us stand up and abandon the rear that we wish to leave behind.

Perfection requires effort.

The panorama of the summit asks for ascension.

If we aspire to the environment of the Higher Life, let us go forward, walking with the standards of Jesus.

I will arise — Said the young man in the parable.

Let us arise — We should repeat.

14
Timely Inquiry

"I told them: - Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?
(Acts of the Apostles, 19:2)

The apostolic question still vibrates in all directions, with a great opportunity, in the circles of Christianity.

Everywhere some people begin to believe and already believe in the most varied situations.

Here, someone accepts the Gospel to be pleasant to social relationships.

There, a questioner seeks the field of faith, trying to solve theoretical problems that he considers relevant.

Further, a sick person receives the help of charity and declares himself a follower of the Good News, guided by impressions of physical relief.

Tomorrow, nevertheless, they will resurface as dissatisfied and as desperate as before. In the fields of Spiritism, such phenomena are frequent.

We find a large number of companions who claim to be people of faith because they have identified the survival of some disembodied relatives, because they have gotten rid of some headache or because they obtained a solution to some problems of material struggle.

The next day, yet, they continue to doubt spiritual friends and respectable mediums; welcome new infirmities or get lost through new mazes of human learning.

Paul's questioning continues to be full of actuality.
What kind of spirit do we receive in the act of believing in Jesus' guidance? The one of fascination? That of indolence? That of useless research?

Systematic disapproval of the experiences of others? If we do not harbor the spirit of sanctification that will improve us and renew us for Christ, our faith represents a fragile candle, susceptible to being extinguished at the first blow of the wind.

15
Fraternity

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love another."
Jesus (John 13:35)

Since the victory of Constantine, who opened up the doors of political hegemony in the Christian world, we have lived in various situations to demonstrate the condition of the disciples of Jesus on the Earth.

We organized eminent councils, making daring conclusions regarding the nature of the Soul and the Universe, of Life and God.

We encouraged devastating wars, which brought misery and terror to those who could not believe the diapason of our faith.

We disputed for the Divine Master's grave, brandishing the deadly sword and setting the consuming fire.

We created the insignia and positions referred to religion, so distributing the poison and wielding the dagger.

We lit fires and erected scaffolds, invented torments, and built prisons for whoever disagreed with our points of view.

We stimulated insurrections that operated the clash of brothers against brothers, in the name of the Lord, who witnessed on the cross the devotion to the whole Humanity.

We built palaces and basilicas, famous for their sumptuousness and Beauty, intending to reverence His memory, forgetting that He did not have a stone to lay on His head.

And even today, we feed the separation and discord, erecting trenches of incomprehension and hostility, one against the other, in the most varied sectors of interpretation.

Despite this, the word of Christ is indisputable.

We will not be the holders of the Good News solely through the attitudes linked to the outer world.

We do need a culture that enhances intelligence; justice that sustains the order; material progress that enriches work, and assemblies that favor the study; yet, all human movements, without the light of love, may lose itself in the shadows.

We will instruct ourselves in the learning of the Gospel by cultivating God's Kingdom, which begins in the inner life.

Hence, let us spread the pure and sweet fraternity, mutually helping one another.

The fraternity that works and assists; understands and forgives, between humility and service, that ensures the victory of the good.

Let us practice it, wherever we are, keeping in mind the word of the Lord, who said clearly:

'' By this everyone will know that you are my disciples; if you love one another."

16
Do Not Be Upset

"I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death."
Paul (Romans 7:10)

If we asked the opinion of the grain of wheat about the mill, it would naturally respond that the mill is where it finds the torture, which causes it to suffer and distress; yet, that is the place from which the wheat goes out for the glory of the bread in the subsistence of the world.

If we inquired the wood concerning the saw, the instrument for cutting trees, it would inform us that it finds in the saw, its tormentor of all the moments, which tears its innards apart. Still, under the sponsorship of the alleged executioner, it becomes delicate and useful, serving in increasingly noble activities.

If we consult the stone, alluding to the chisel, it will certainly explain that it has in the instrument, the detestable persecutor of its tranquility. That it hurts it day and night mercilessly; though it is from these blows, that the stone will be higher and higher, perfected, and brilliant, to the earthly treasures.

So is the soul. So is the fight.

Let us ask the opinion of a man concerning the flesh, and he will say, perhaps, a thousand improprieties. If we listen to him speaking about the pain, we will probably hear nonsense words. Let us ask him to talk about the difficulties, and he will pour bile and tears.

The flesh and he will say, perhaps, a thousand improprieties. If we listen to him speaking about the pain, we will probably hear nonsense words. Let us ask him to talk about the difficulties, and he will pour bile and tears.

Despite that, it is imperative to recognize that from the disciplined body, the purifying suffering, and the suffocating obstacle, the spirit rises, always more robust, more lovely, and enlightened to the immortality.

Do not be disturbed, therefore, in the face of the struggle, and observe. What you consider defeat is oft victory, and what you think is in favor of your death is a contribution to your aggrandizement in eternal life.

17
Christ and Us

"And to him said the Lord in a vision, "Ananias!", And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord!"
Acts 9:10

The men wait for Jesus, and Jesus waits for the men as well.
No one should believe that the world begins its redemption without redeemed souls.

To extend the sublimity of His saving program, the Master asks human hands to accomplish and intensify it.

He started his apostolate by inviting Peter and Andrew to follow Him and then formed a group of twelve companions to initiate the work of planetary regeneration.

And, since the first day of the Good News, He invites, calls, and insists, beside the souls, with the purpose of their becoming instruments of His Divine Will, and make us realize that the redemption proceeds from Heaven.

Still, it will not take place among the creatures without the active collaboration of goodwill hearts. Even when He comes personally, looking for someone for His tillage of light, as it happened in the conversion of Paul, the Master does not spare the cooperation of incarnate workers.

After visiting the doctor from Tarsus directly, He seeks Ananias, sending him to help the new disciple.

Why did Jesus wish to accompany the newly converted, assisting him in person? The reason for that is as follows: if humanity cannot enlighten itself and progress without Christ, He does not dispense with men in the work of sublimation and uplifting of the world.

- **"Go into the entire world and preach the gospel to all creation."**
- **"Behold, I am sending you."**
- **"Let your light shine before others."**
- **"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."**

Similar statements of the Lord prove the importance He attributed to a human contribution.

Let us love and work, purifying, and always serving.

Wherever there is a follower of the Gospel, there will be a messenger of the Celestial Friend, continuously practicing the good.

Christianity means Christ and us.

18
Not Only

‘'Man shall not live on bread alone.” Jesus (Matthew 4:4)

Not only a coat to protect the body, but also the shelter of the superior knowledge that strengthens the soul.

Not only the elegance of the physiognomic mask, but the prettiness and the nobility of feelings as well.

Not just eugenics, to improve muscles, but also education to perfect manners. Not only surgery to remove the organic defect, but the personal effort to nullify the inner deficiencies too.

Not only a comfortable home for physical life, but equally the invisible home of uplifting principles, where the spirit becomes useful, esteemed, and respected.

Not only honorable titles that illustrate the transient personality, but also the proven virtues in the objective struggle, which enrich the eternal consciousness.

Not only brightness for mortal eyes, but also divine light, for the imperishable understanding.

Not only a nice appearance, but living utility too. Not just flowers, but fruits as well.

Not just continued education, but an active demonstration too.

Not only an excellent theory, but also sanctifying practices. Not solely us, but also the others.

The Master said:
‘'Man shall not live on bread alone.”

Let us apply the sublime concept to the immense field of the world.

Good taste, harmony, and dignity in outer life constitute a duty, but let us not forget the purity, elevation, and the sublime resources of the inner life, with which we go towards Eternity.

19
Feed

“Feed my sheep.” Jesus (John 21:17)

By observing humanity as His immense flock, Jesus abstains from recommending drastic measures in favor of compulsory discipline.

Neither screams to emit, nor derogatory language. Neither jail, nor gallows.

Neither whip, nor stick.

Nor punishment, or imposition.

Neither abandonment to unhappy ones, nor scourge to corrupt men

Neither lamentation, nor despair.

"Peter, feed my sheep!" — This corresponds to saying:

—Brother, sustain those companions that are needier than yourself.

Do not let discouragement take you before revolt sentiments, nor condemn the error, from which the beneficial lesson will come later.

Help the neighbor, instead of whipping them.

Educate always.

Make yourself a faithful worker.

Be demanding of yourself, and shelter the sick and fragile hearts that follow your steps.

If you plant the good, time will take care of the germination, flowering, and fruiting at the right moment.

Do not analyze by destroying. Today's inexperienced man can be the mentor of tomorrow.

Feed the "good" part of your brother and go ahead. Life will turn evil into debris, and the Lord will.

20
Difference

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble!
James 2:19

The warning of the apostle is very outstanding in spiritual advice. Expecting benefits from Heaven is an attitude common to all.

Worshiping the Lord might be a task of both just and unjust people.

Admitting the existence of the Divine Government is a dominant trait of all creatures.

Accepting the Supreme Power is proper to good and bad people.

James had a divine inspiration in this verse, because his words defined the difference between believing in God and doing His Sublime Will.

Intelligence is an attribute of all.

The Cognition proceeds from experience.

The living being is always evolving, and he who proceeds can learn and know.

The distinction between the evil genius and the genius of good remains in the direction one gives to his knowledge.

The demon, as a symbol of wickedness, executes his desires, usually crazy and dark.

The angel identifies with the designs of the Eternal and fulfills them, wherever he is.

The religious school to which you are affiliated is not enough to make the problem of personal happiness find the desired solution.

Worshiping the Lord, waiting, and believing in Him, are characteristic attitudes of most people.

The only sign that will reveal your nobler condition is printed in the action that you develop in life, to accomplish His purposes.

The only sign that will reveal your noblest condition will be imprinted on the action you develop in life, in order to perform His designs.

That occurs because, in truth, it is not so helpful, as regards the improvement, the act of keeping believing in the good that will come from the Lord.

That is ineffective.

The inaction is helpless, but rather the diligence in practicing the good, today, here and now, in His name.

21
Majority

"And without a doubt, the lesser is blessed by the greater."
Paul (Hebrews 7:7)

In all the activities of life, some reach the natural majority among their relatives, companions, or contemporaries.

Some become greater in physical experience, in knowledge, virtue, or competence.

Though, in general, the one who has the support of any level of superiority frequently takes advantage of it to forget his debt concerning the neighbor.

Very often, those who reach the financial majority become avaricious; those who find the scientific highlight turn into presumptuous individuals, and those who find themselves in the gallery of power embrace the vain pride.

The Law of Life, however, does not recommend exclusivity and separateness. By divine principles, all legitimate progress converts into blessings to the entire community.

The very Nature offers sublime lessons in this sense. The tree grows for fruiting. The fountain grows to benefit the soil.

If you have grown in experience or elevation of any kind, remember the fraternal communion with all.

The Sun, with its rays of light, does not abandon the muddy cave, nor does it disdain the worm.

Development is power.

Note how you employ the advantages that you have received in your existence.

The Highest Spirit, among all those personalities who stepped on the Earth's soil, accepted the supreme sacrifice, to assist everyone, unconditionally.

Do not forget that according to the Divine Statute: **"The lesser is blessed by a greater."**

22
The Reward

"Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"
Matthew 19:27

The question of the apostle expresses the attitude of many hearts in the religious temples. The man consecrates himself to a certain circle of faith and claims, immediately:

"What shall I receive?"

The answer is poured out silently through the very life. What does the ripe grain receive after the harvest?

The hammermill, to help it in its purification. What prize will obtain the white and noble flour? The yeast, to transform it into an immense benefit.

What privilege characterizes the bread after the oven? The grace of serving.

No Christian is formed for metamorphosing himself into a living adornment, but for the regenerating and sanctifying action of existence.

In Christ, however, the context is diverse. We have triumphed, beside Him, to become brothers of all those who share with us the experience, keeping the obligation to support them.

Simon Peter, who wished to know what the reward for his cooperation for the Good News would be, saw closely, the need for renunciation.

The more his faith became purer, the more testimonies of love for humanity he had to bear. The more knowledge he acquired, the greater the charity to which he was constrained, until the extreme sacrifice.

Therefore, if out of devotion to Jesus, you have left the ties that bound you to inferior areas of life, remember that for your happiness, you have received from Heaven, the honor of helping, the prerogative of understanding, and the glory of serving.

23
Before the Sublime

"Do not make common what God has purified."
(Acts of the Apostles, 10:15)

There are expressions in the Gospel that, in the way of flowers to be highlighted.

In a divine branch, they must be taken out of the hole so that we dazzle ourselves until its peculiar shine and perfume. The heavenly voice addressed to Simon Peter in Acts covers much more extended horizons than the individual problem of the apostle.

The common man considers himself in a field surrounded by glories on Earth. Nonetheless, he thinks he is in a place for vulgarities, unable to value the wealth that surrounds him.

Blinded before the superb spectacle of life, which frames his development, he gloats over the world's preciousness, without meditating on the patient effort of the centuries, which the Infinite Wisdom used in the improvement and in selecting the values around him.

How many millennia has the formation of rock required?

How many ingredients harmonize in the elaboration of a simple radius of sun?

How many obstacles were overcome for the flower to materialize?

How much effort did the domestication of trees and animals cost?

How many centuries has Patience of Heaven employed in the complex structuring of the organic machine in which the incarnate Spirit manifests itself?

The reason is gradual light, before the sublime.

Do not forget, my brother, that the Lord has placed your material experience in you in a real paradise, where the tiny seed returns in the average of the infinite by one, and where waters and flowers, soil and atmosphere invite you to produce, in favor of the Eternal Treasures multiplication.

Each day, praise the Lord, who has graced you with valuable opportunities and divine gifts.

Think, study, work, and serve. Do not consider common what God has purified and magnified.

24
By the Works

"Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."
Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:13)

This passage from Paul, in the First Epistle to the Thessalonians, is singularly expressive for our daily life.

We all experience the tendency to consecrate the most esteem only to those who sing from the same hymn sheet as we.

Our devotion is always warm to those who embrace our points of view, the deep-rooted habits, and social principles; though, frequently, our interpretations fail, our customs are not the noblest, and our guidelines are not the most praiseworthy.

Hence, it is imperative to disintegrate the shell of our selfishness, to dedicate our friendship and respect to our companions. Not for the emotional servitude, which links themselves to our route, but for the fidelity, through which they guide themselves towards the common good.

If we love someone solely for his or her physical beauty, we are likely to find tomorrow the object of our affection on the way to debris.

If we estimate only the brilliant oratory of a friend, it is possible that briefly he is in distressed mutism.

If we consecrate ourselves to somebody, just because he obeys us blindly, we are probably making him fall into the same mistakes that we have committed so many times.

It is essential to perfect our way of seeing and feeling, so we can advance towards a Higher life.

Let us seek the creatures, above all, by the works with which they benefit the time and space in which we move.

One day, we will understand that seldom is the best that one who agrees with us.
Still, it will always be that one who follows Jesus and works with Him, in the betterment of life, both inside and outside us.

25
In the Gifts of Christ

"But to each one of us, grace has been given as Christ apportioned it".
Paul (Ephesians 4:7)

The human soul, in these twenty centuries of Christianity, is a conscience enlightened by reason, in a full battle for the conquest of illumination values.

The struggle field remains in our intimate life. Animals versus spiritualism.

They are millennia of crystallized shadows against the rising light.

And the man, little by little, between the alternatives of life and death, is reborn in the body and returns to spiritual activity; he molds in himself the sublime qualities, indispensable for ascension, and which, in the end, constitute the virtues of Christ, progressive in each one of us.

Thus, the reason why the divine grace occupies human existence or grows within it, at the proportion that the gifts of Jesus, incipient or reduced, regular or enormous, may manifest in this grace.

Wherever you are, whatever you are, strive to acclimatize the Christian qualities in yourself, with great attention to the culture of precious plants at home.

As for the Earth, we are all susceptible to produce for good or evil.

Let us offer our hearts to the Divine Cultivator, without forgetting that if the "conscious soil" of our spirit accepts the seeds of the Celestial Grower, each crumb of our goodwill will become a miraculous channel for the externalization of the right. Hence, there will be a permanent multiplication of the graces of the Lord around us.

Observe your "good side" and remember that you can extend it to Infinity. Do not try to destroy millennia of darkness from one moment to the next.

Make use of the self-improvement effort each day.

Persevere in learning from the Master of Love and Renunciation. Let us not forget that the Divine Grace will occupy our individual space, according to our actual growth in the gifts of Christ.

26

Faithless Worker

"And I will show you my faith by my works."

James 2:18

Anyone can find a worker without faith, spreading his restlessness and discouragement.

He devotes himself to determinate charitable work and abandons it soon, murmuring:

—For what? The world is no good.

He commits himself to community duties and, without any demonstration of persistence, he leaves the edifying obligations, claiming:

—I was not born for dishonorable servility.

He approaches a religious faith to enjoy its benefits; still, soon after, he relegates it to oblivion, asserting:

—This is all lies and complications.

If someone invites him to a leading position, he repeats the old refrain:

— I do not deserve it! I am unworthy! ...

If someone takes him to the testimony of humility, he affirms with manifest outrage:

—Who offends me so?

Then he moves from situation to situation.

Amidst lamentation and indiscipline, he has plenty of time to feel persecuted and unappreciated.

Wherever he goes, he is the worker who does not finish the service he had started or the student who studies continuously, without ever learning the lesson.

Do not dedicate yourself to faith without work, which constitutes dangerous drunkenness of the soul; nevertheless, do not consecrate yourself to the action without faith in the Divine Power and your efforts.

The server who trusts in the Law of Life is confident that the assets and Glories of the Universe belong to God. Because of this, he lives under the light of joy and action in ceaseless good, completing the small and large tasks up to him.

He does not fall in love with himself in vanity, nor does he enslave himself to the creations of which he would be the fortunate instrument.

Let us reveal our faith through our work, in shared happiness, and the Lord will give our life the indefinable addition of love and wisdom, of beauty and power.

27

Destruction and Misery

"Destruction and misery are in their ways”

Romans 3:16

When the disciple isolates himself from the trust in the Master and shuns action on the lines of His examples in His apostolate, preferring the vast path of infidelity to his conscience, he digs, without realizing it, enormous abysses of destruction and misery, wherever he goes.

If he crystallizes the mind in idleness, he eliminates the good cheer in the heart of the workers around him and strangles his opportunities to serve.

If he descends into the gorge of denial, he destroys the tender hopes of the feelings of so many who come closer to the faith, and he weaves a vast network of shadows for himself.

If he transfers his soul to the dark residence of vice, he suffocates the nascent virtues in the companions of his journey and acquires high debts in his future.

If he gives shelter to despair, he extinguishes the faint glimmer of confidence in the neighbor’s soul and weeps uselessly, under the storm of destructive tears.

If he seeks refuge in the cold house of sorrow, he suffocates the optimism of those who accompany him and loses the wealth of time in vain lamentations.

The divine determination for the apprentice of the Gospel is to go ahead by helping, understanding, and serving everyone.

Paralyzing means immobilizing others and freezing oneself.

Revolting is the same as whipping the brothers and injuring one’s individuality.

Running away from the good is disorienting the others and annihilating one’s personality.

Unfortunate are those who do not follow the Master that they have met, as knowing Jesus Christ in spirit and living far from Him means spreading destruction around one’s steps and conserving misery within.

28

Something

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."

Jesus (Luke 5:31)

He who can read should not forget to support those who are not literate yet.

Those who have an enlightened word should help the brother by teaching him the science of correct and expressive phrases.

Those who have organic balance should not despise the possibility of helping the sick.

He who has managed to bring some light of faith in his spirit should support patiently the luckless who have not yet opened themselves to the notion of responsibility before the Lord, helping them to get rid of darkness.

He who has the resources to work shall not forget the brother, less used to the work, by leading him, whenever possible, to a worthy activity.

He who esteems the practice of charity ought to have mercy on hardened souls, benefiting them with vibrations of prayer.

Those who are already developing the virtue of humility should not turn away from the proud, affording them, through example, the indispensable elements for readjustment.

Whoever is a good-hearted person shall not refuse assistance to the bad ones, since evil always results from revolt or ignorance.

Whoever is in the company of peace should help the desperate. He who keeps the joy in his heart ought to divide the grace of contentment with the sorrowful.

The Lord stated that the healthy ones need no physician, but rather, the sick.

Remember those who travel in the world, among difficulties greater than yours. Life does not claim your total sacrifice on behalf of others, but for your benefit, do not disdain the chance to do something for the expansion of general happiness.

29

Let Us Serve

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people."

Paul (Ephesians 6:7)

If you legislate, but you do not apply the Law, according to the designs of the Lord, who considers the needs of all, you walk through dangerous abysses.

These abysses you dug through your unhappy creations, impede your reaping the benefits of your glorious mission in the collective order.

If you manage, but you do not take care of the Lord's interests, on the path you go as steward of life, you suffer the threat of burying your heart in dark whims, without enjoying the blessings of the function you carry out in the public ministry.

If you judge your fellow men and you are not inspired by the Lord, who knows all the peculiarities and circumstances of the court cases, you live in the probability of falling, spectacularly, on the same path, to which run for shelter, as many as you hastily appreciate, without taking with you, for your own profit, the gifts of wisdom that Justice keeps in your intelligence.

If you work in color or marble, in verb or melody, without translating in your works the correction, the love and the light of the Lord, you keep the tremendous responsibility of those who establish criminal images for consumption of the popular mind, losing, in vain, the glory that enriches the feelings.

If obedience has called you, in structuring utilities for the world, with no spirit of comprehension towards the Lord, who loved the creatures, even to personal sacrifice, you live among the ghosts of indiscipline and discouragement. This, without impregnating in yourself the divine clarity of the talent that rests in your hands.

Friend, the experience on Earth is sublime learning. The work is always the instructor of spiritual evolution.

Let us serve without imprisoning ourselves. One can find everywhere, in the human valley, the resources for action and improvement for those who wish to go forward.

Let us serve, anywhere, willingly, as being to the Lord and not to the creatures, and the Lord will lead us to the summits of life.

30

Educate

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

Paul (1 Corinthians 3:16)

In the tiny seed lies the germ of the beneficial trunk.

In the heart of the Earth, there are melodies of fountains.

On the stone blocks, there are masterpieces of statuary.

The Orchard demands active effort.

The crystalline stream of water requires aqueducts to be transported uncontaminated.

A jewel of sculpture requests miracles from the chisel. Also, the spirit carries with it the gene of Divinity.

God is with us, as much as we are in God.

But for the divine light to stand out from the human darkness, the educational processes of life must work on us, on the rough path of the millennia. Only the heart ennobled in the greater understanding can pour the sanctifying heroism.

Just the cultivated brain can produce enlightened forms of thought.

Solely spiritual greatness can generate balanced words, sublime verbs, and a comforting voice.

Let us interpret pain and work as heavenly artists of our spiritual improvement.

Educate, and you will transform the irrational age into intelligence, intelligence into humanity, and humanity into angelhood.

Educate, and you will build a paradise on Earth.

If we know that the Lord dwells in us, let us perfect our lives to manifest Him.

31

Farmers

"The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops."

Paul (2 Timothy 2:6)

There are farmers of every sort.

Some buy the field and explore it, through sweating tenants, without ever touching the soil with their hands.

We find them in many places.

Those who relegate the hoe to the rust, crossing their arms and imputing to the rain or the soil, the failure of the sowing they neglected.

We are confronted by many who supervise the planting of the neighbors, without giving any attention to the work that concerns them.

We find several who wander about a thousand frivolities, whereas voracious parasites annihilate the fragile flowers.

We hear many people saying that the land is incapable of any production, but they deny the land bestowed upon them, the blessing of the water drops, and the aid of the fertilizer.

Many complain of headache, the flu, malaise, or indisposition, and so, they lose the sublime opportunity of sowing.

Nature, however, repays all of them with disillusionment, difficulty, denial, and disappointment.

Though, the farmer who works early collects the grace of the abundance in his barn.

So is it, in the cultivation of the spirit.

No one will achieve an excellent result without endeavoring, working in favor of the neighbor, and giving to it the best of himself.

Paul of Tarsus, writing at a time of masters and slaves, superficiality and favoritism, does not tell us that

the sower distinguished by Caesar, or more well-heeled, would be the rightful owner of the harvest.

Yet he asserted, with perfect accuracy, that the farmer dedicated to his obligations will be the first to benefit from the advantages of the fruit.

32

The Good Part

"Mary has chosen what is better, and no one will take it away from her."

Jesus (Luke, 10:42)

Do not forget the positive part that resides in all creatures and things.

The fire destroys, but it transports with itself the purifying element.

The stone is contusing, but it consolidates security.

A windstorm whips ruthlessly; however, it helps in the renewal.

A torrent is a filth; still, it usually conducts the indispensable fertilizer to the successful sowing.

So, there are also creatures that despite being negative in some sectors of the human struggle, prove to be extremely valuable in other fields.

Unilateral appreciation is always ruinous.

Complete imperfection, as much as full perfection, does not exist in the plan in which we evolve.

The criminal, accused by everyone, can be tomorrow the health care worker who brings you the glass of water.

The companion, in whom you have discovered deep darkness, might be later the sublimated brother who invites you to a good example.

A storm of the hour, as we are living at this moment, is, often, the source of well-being that we are going to live.

Let us search for the best side of the situations, events, and people.

"Mary has chosen what is better, and no one will take it away from her", told us the Lord.

Let us assimilate the essence of the divine lesson. Those who seek the positive part, and with it remain, gather in the field of life, the spiritual treasure that anyone will never steal from them.

33

Rise and Help

"He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet."

Acts 9:41

Very outstanding this lesson of Acts, when Peter restores the health of the sister, Dorcas, bringing her back to life.

The apostle thought insufficient to utter beautiful words in her ears, to renew her forces.

He offered his hands to help her stand up. That is one of the most symbolic teachings.

We see many companions standing up again to the knowledge, joy, and virtue, bathed in the divine glow of the Master, and able to lead thousands of creatures to the Upper Sphere.

Though, for this very reason, simple preaching does not suffice.

The sermon is, effectively, a sublime appeal, from which Christ did not abstain, but we cannot forget that the Celestial Friend indoctrinated Himself on the mount; also, in the same place, He multiplied the loaves to the hungry people, reinvigorating their energies.

We, who were dead in ignorance, and today can enjoy some blessings of light, through an increase of Mercy of God, need to extend the service of rescue to others.

Still, we will not carry out our redeeming task just by pronouncing some admirable speeches.

It is imperative to use our hands in good works. The effort of the muscles means personal activity.

Without the commitment of our energies, in the construction of the Spiritual Kingdom with the Christ on Earth, in vain will we make excellent observations around the preciousness of the Good News or the needs of human redemption.

As we find our brother fallen on the road, let us do our best to awake him with the resources of transforming verbs. Though, let us not forget that if one wants to bring him up again, to becoming life, according to the unforgettable lesson of Peter, it is indispensable to extend our hands fraternally to him.

34

Let Us Keep Care

"But to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure."

Paul (Titus 1:15)

Man, always sees through the inner vision.

With the colors he uses inside, he judges the aspects from outside. From what he feels inside, he examines the feelings of others.

Examining the conduct of others, he imagines finding the means and ends of actions peculiar to himself.

Therefore, it is imperative great vigilance, so that our conscience is not contaminated by evil. When the shadow wanders in our mind, we glimpse nothing but shadows everywhere.

Together with the manifestations of the purest love, we think of carnal hallucinations.

If we find a companion dressed with commendable good taste, we think of vanity.

Before the friend summoned to the public career, we idealize political tyranny.

If the neighbor knows how to spare money with the perfect opportunity, we look at him with suspicion and often weave long reflections around misappropriations.

When we hear a friend in righteous defense, using the energy to which he is entitled, we relegate him immediately to the category of the intractable ones. When darkness extends, in the intimacy of our life, deplorable changes affect our thoughts. Virtues, in these circumstances, are never seen.

The evils, however, always remain.

The purest gestures of blessing, receive regrettable interpretations.

Let us be careful, every time we are visited by envy, jealousy, suspicion or slander.

Complex cases exist, in which silence is the blessed and effective remedy, because, undoubtedly, each spirit observes the path or the walker, according to his clear or dark vision.

35

Let Us Spread the Good

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Paul (Romans 12:21)

Observe that amid in the house of Nature, before the evil, all the elements offer all their best. They strive so that it is possible to find perfect harmony in Nature and reach the victory of the good.

When the storm seems to have destroyed all the landscape, divine forces of life gather in a work of return to the previous state.

The sun sends light over the mire, healing the sores of the ground. The wind caresses the grove and dries its branches.

The song of the birds replaces the voice of the thunder.

The plain receives the flood, without revolting, and converts it into an efficient fertilizer.

The air that supports the weight of the clouds and the shock of the destroying spark returns to lightness and softness.

The tree of broken or injured fronds regenerates, in silence, to produce new flowers and fruits.

The Earth, our common mother, suffers, periodically, the rain of sleet and the iodine bath; yet, it does not fail to widen the good increasingly.

Why do we, in turn, keep the bile and the sourness of evil in the intimacy of our hearts?

Let us learn to receive the visit of adversity, educating its energies in favor of life.

Ignorance is just a long night that will give way to the sun of wisdom.

Use the treasure of your love in all directions, and extend the good in every part.

When touched by the mud, the fountain never gives up. It welcomes the debris in its bosom, and by continuing to flow, it transforms them into blessings, in the course of its waters, which keep running, with mildness and humility, for the benefit of all.

36

Enlightening Statement

And ye will not come to me, that ye might have the life.

Jesus (John 5:40)

All the people who seek the sublimation of individuality must understand the supreme value of the will, about the processes of self-improvement. The temples and schools of Christianity remain replete with apprentices.

They glimpse the divine powers of Jesus and recognize His magnanimity, yet, they still walk at the taste of cruel vacillations. They believe and disbelieve, help, and become unhelpful, organize and disturb, light up in faith, and get enveloped in clouds of darkness in distrust.

It is because they expect the protection of the Lord to enjoy the immediate contentment in the body, but they do not want to go before the Master to get hold of eternal life.

They ask for the miracle from the hands of Christ, but they do not accept His guidelines. They ask for His comforting presence; nevertheless, they do not accompany His steps.

They want to hear the Master, close to the serene lake, in lectures of hope and comfort; they do not want to work on the divine path with Him, through the sacrifice for the victory of the right.

They greet Him in Jerusalem, adorned with flowers. Nonetheless, they flee from the testimonies of understanding and goodness, at the head of the mad and sick crowd. They beg Him for the resurrection blessings; still, they hate the cross of thorns that regenerates and sanctifies.

They can go to the uplifting vanguard, but they do not want to.

They cry out for the divine light; despite that, they are afraid to leave the shadows.

They yearn for improvement in the conditions they move, yet they detest their spiritual modifications towards perfecting.

We see, then, that it is easy to eat the bread multiplied by the infinite love of the Divine Master or to rejoice in someone with his healing influence.

Still, to reach the Abundant Life, of which He became the Sublime Ambassador, the faculty of power and the act of believing do not suffice. Man needs, likewise the persevering will, of those who have learned to work and serve, to want and perfect.

37

In the Regenerative Work

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."

Paul (Galatians 6:1)

If we try to guide the lost brother in the complications of error, with cholera goads, we do nothing else than arousing his anger against ourselves.

If we impose blows on him, he will fight back. When we highlight his faults, he may highlight our less happy gestures. In case we manifest for him to suffer the same evil, with which he hurt another, we only increase the percentage of evil.

By applauding his misconduct, we approve of the crime.

By remaining indifferent, we sustain the disturbance. But if we treat the error of our fellow man as if we were treating the illness from a friend, we are, in reality, carrying out the regenerative work.

In difficult times, when we meet a companion crashing in the interior shadows, let us not forget that to help him, it is so inadvisable the condemnation, as for the praise.

If it is not fair to throw oil into the flames, to put out the fire, nobody heals wounds with the projection of perfume.

First of all, let us be human. Let us approach the unhappy fellow with the values of understanding and fraternity.

No one will lose, when exercising the respect that we owe to all creatures and all things.

Let us put ourselves in the position of the accused and reflect if, in those conditions, we would have resisted the suggestions of evil.

Let us relate our advantages and the losses of our brothers with impartiality and good intention.

Every time we proceed so, the picture changes in the minimum aspects. Otherwise, it will always be easy to bray and condemn, and to fall, with certainty, into the same offenses, when we are, in our turn, visited by temptation.

38

If We Knew

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Jesus (Luke 23:34)

If the murderer knew, in advance, the tribute of pain that life will impose upon him, in the readjustment of his destiny, he would prefer not to have hands to strike any blow.

If the slanderer could eliminate the crust of shadow that turns his vision insane, by watching the suffering that awaits him in the reckoning with the truth, he would paralyze his vocal cords, or immobilize his hands which write defamation, to prevent himself from the wrongful accusation.

If a deserter of good works could see the dangerous pitfalls with which the darkness will rob him from the contentment of living, he would remain happy with the sanctifying handcuffs of the heavy tasks.

When the ungrateful one noticed the bile of bitterness that will invade his heart later, he would not commit the mistake of indifference.

As the selfish man contemplated the infernal solitude that awaits him, he would never leave the tireless practice of fraternity and cooperation.

In the case the glutton saw the imbalances to which he leads his body, hastening the march to death, he would invariably cultivate frugality and harmony.

When we knew how terrible is the disrespect for the Divine Laws, in its entire terrible context, we would never leave the straight path.

Forgive, then, the one who slanders and hurts you. Indeed, all those who surrender to the disturbing suggestions of evil do not know what they do.

39

Inoperative Faith

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

James 2:17

The problem of inoperative faith is worthy of the best attention, at all times, so that the disciples of the Gospel may understand, with clarity, that the noblest ideal without work to materialize it, for the benefit of all, will always be a superb unproductive landscape.

What can we say about a precious engine that no one uses? A fountain that does not move to fertilize the field? Or a light that does not radiate?

We will safely rely on a particular seed, though, if we do not plant it, what will result from our expectation, if not simple uselessness?

We sustain absolute hope in the works that the wooden log will provide to us, still, if we do not wish to use the saw and the planer, naturally, the raw material will be abandoned indefinitely, on the way to disintegration.

Religious belief is the means. The apostolate is the end.

The celestial confidence illuminates the intelligence in order that the beneficial action gains more extension, improvising, everywhere, blessings of peace and joy, aggrandizement, and sublimation.

Whoever can receive a drop of spiritual revelation, in their innermost being, demonstrating the necessary maturation for a superior life, should seek, as soon as possible, the work that is up to them, in favor of the general progress.

Faith, in essence, is that mustard embryo of Jesus' teaching, which in full growth, achieved by elevation through unceasing labor, becomes the Divine Kingdom, where the soul of the believer starts living.

Hence, keep the religious ecstasy in the heart!

Without any activity in the works on development of wisdom and love, consubstantiated in the service of charity and education, will mean conserving in the living earth of the feeling, a dead idol, buried among the useless flowers of the bright promises.

40

Before the Aim

"So that one way or another, I will experience the resurrection from the dead!"

Paul (Philippians 3:11)

We will achieve the objective that we target:

A miser man dreams of monetized treasures and reaches the safe.

An evildoer usually takes a long time planning the violent action and commits the crime.

A skilled politician yearns for authority and comes to a high rank in the material field.

An unprepared woman concentrates her thoughts on the wasting of emotions and penetrates the field of disturbing adventures.

Every goal we set ourselves has its respective price. To save money, the usurer generally loses his peace.

By committing the crime that he had delineated, the offender degrades his name.

The opportunist, aiming at attaining the post of command, often disfigures his character.

An unwise woman, in search of fanciful pleasures, usually gives up the right to be happy.

If one must pay such heavy taxes for persecuting purely inferior results, what tributes will the spirit have to dispose of for glory in eternal life?

The Master on the cross is the answer for all those who seek the sublimity of resurrection.

By contemplating this aim, Paul knew how to seek it through whips, misunderstandings, afflictions, and stoning, ceaselessly serving in the name of the Lord.

If you wish, in turn, to reach the same destination, focus your aspirations on the sanctifying goal, and with a valiant effort, pursue the conquest of the eternal award.

On the Rough Path

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
Paul (Hebrews 13:5)

The word of the Lord not only refers to the sustenance of physical life, but it also concerns the stony climbing of ascension.

Much more than the bread for the physical body, we need thebread of the spirit.

If the cells of the physiological field feel hunger and ask for asimple soup, the needs and desires, impulses, and emotions of the soul provoke, sometimes, extreme afflictions, requiring more extensive spiritual nourishment.

There are moments of immense fatigue in our most inner reserves.

The energies seem exhausted, and hopes give way, apathetic.

The shadow comes into us as if thick darkness surrounded us.

And, as it happens in Nature, under the nocturnal mantle, although we keep sources of understanding and flowers ofgoodwill, in the vast expanse of our inner country, everything remains veiled by the fog of our restlessness.

The All-Merciful, still then, does not leave us relegated to thedarkness of our disappointments and hesitations.

He makes the effulgent stars shine at night, unveiling the constellate paths of the sky to a lost traveler in the world.

In the same way, He lights, in the firmament of our ideals, new convictions, and higher aspirations, so our spirit does not get lost on the journey to the superior life.

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So promises the Divine Kindness.

Neither loneliness nor abandonment.

The Heavenly Providence continues watching over us.

Let us, therefore, maintain the comforting certainty that every storm is followed by a quiet atmosphere, and there is no night without dawn.

42

For a Little While

He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

Paul (Hebrews 11:25)

In this passage, Paul refers to the attitude of Moses, as this last refrains from experiencing, for some time, the sumptuousness of the Palace of Pharaoh, to consecrate himself to the liberation of his captive companions.

So, he created a sublime image to define the position of the incarnate spirit on Earth.

For a while, the administrator guides the interests of the people.

For a while, the servant obeys in the subaltern position.

For a while, the usurer retains the money.

For a while, the unhappy man suffers privations.

Ah! If man could realize the brevity of his days on Earth!

If he saw the exiguity of the resources available to him while in the flesh...

Surely, such a perception, in the face of eternity, would grant him a new concept of the blessed, precious, and brief opportunity which he conquered in the world.

Everything favors or afflicts the individual, solely for a little time.

Many people yet, use this small fraction of hours to complicate themselves for many years.

It is imperative to focus brain and heart on the example of all those who knew how to glorify the hasty trip on the common path.

Moses did not stop to enjoy for a while, in the Pharaonic environment, to bequeath for us the fair law.

Jesus did not contend, not even for a while, before the cruelty of all the people that persecuted Him.

He aimed at teaching us the divine secret of the Cross with Eternal Resurrection.

Paul did not dare to rest for a while, after meeting the Master at the gates of Damascus, leaving for us his example of work and living faith as a legacy.

My friend, wherever you are, remember that you remain there for a little time. Moderate in joy and resign yourself to sadness, working permanently, in the extension of good, because it is in the demonstration of the "little" that you will walk towards the lots of happiness or suffer.

43

Speech

"And soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us."

Paul (Titus 2:8)

Through speech, a man helps or causes hardships to himself. Even if our intimacy remains clouded with problems, our words should not become turbid or unbalanced to others.

Each one has his enigma, his need, and pain, and it is not fair to increase the afflictions of the neighbors with the burden of our restlessness.

The expression of the complaint discourages, the rough verb whips, the slanderous remark confuses...

By our ill-conducted manifestation regarding the mistakes of others, we keep the truth away from us.

By our less ennobled verbal expression, we thrust away the blessing of love that would fill us with the satisfaction of living.

Let us have the necessary courage to eliminate, by ourselves, the rays of our uncontrolled feelings and desires.

The word is a channel of the "self".

By the valve of the tongue, our passions explode, and our virtues expand.

Each time we manifest the vocabulary that is peculiar to us, we spread forces that destroy or build, undermine or restore, hurt, or soothe.

Language, in our view, consists of three essential elements:

—Expression

—Manner

—Voice.

If we do not clarify the sentence, if we do not perfect the manner and do not educate the voice, according to the situations, we are likely to lose our best opportunities for amelioration, understanding, and elevation.

Paul of Tarsus provides the appropriate recipe for the apprentices of the Gospel.

Neither too sweet nor too bitter. Neither too soft, chasing away confidence, nor harsh or blunt, breaking sympathy, but **"sound and irreproachable language for the opponent to be ashamed of, having no harm to say about us."**

44

Let Us Have Faith

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?"

Jesus (John 14:2)

The Master knew that until the building of the Divine Kingdom on Earth, all those that followed Him would live in the condition of misfits, working on the progress of all creatures; nevertheless, "without a place" suited to the sublime ideals kept in their hearts.

In fact, everywhere, the loyal Christian rarely receives the due respect.

By generally being different from the collectivity, not yet completely Christianized, he suffers the unkind opinion of many.

If he practices humility, he is treated as a coward.

If he adopts a simple life, he is accused of being sloppy.

If he seeks to be good, he is categorized as a fool.

If he manages worthily, he is deemed as proud.

If he obeys as it is fair, he is considered servile.

If he exercises tolerance, he is seen as incompetent.

If he uses energy in social life, he is known as cruel.

If he works devotedly, he is listed as conceited.

If he tries to improve himself, by assuming responsibilities in the intensive efforts of good works, or soothing lectures, he is labeled as false.

If he tries to help the neighbor by coming close to the crowd, with his gestures of spontaneous kindness, he is often described as an opportunist and a personal; someone attentive to his own interests.

Despite such conflicts, however, let us keep on acting and serving, in the name of the Lord.

Once recognizing that the home of His followers does not stand on the ground of the world, promised Jesus that He would prepare them a place in the higher plane.

Let us continue, then, working with double fervor in the sowing of the good, in the manner of servants provisionally distanced from the real home. **“My Father's house has many rooms.”**

And Christ remains serving ahead of us.

Let us have faith.

45

Only Then

"By this, my Father is glorified, that you bear fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

Jesus (John 15:8)

In our afflictions, we invoke the Father.

In moments of joy, we worship Him.

On a stormy night, we await Him with eagerness.

On a festive day, we solemnly revered Him.

Praised by the recognized children and forgotten by the ungrateful, the Father is always generous, spreading the blessings of His infinite goodness among the good and the bad, just and unjust.

He teaches the bush to develop itself, teaches the worm to crawl, and the man to think.

Nobody should doubt, though, as to the expectation of the Supreme Lord concerning us.

From incarnation to incarnation, He helps us to grow and serve Him so that, one day, victorious, we may join His divine love and glorify Him.

Still, we will never reach such a condition solely by the thousand ways of brilliant coloration of our feelings and thoughts.

Our higher ideals are necessary, and in essence, they resemble the most beautiful and fragrant flowers of a tree.

Our culture is, irrefutably, indispensable, and fundamentally, constitutes the robustness of the respectable trunk.

The high aspirations we share, are precious and necessary and represent the living and promising leaves. All these requirements are imperative for harvesting.

It is also the same in the domains of the soul.

Only when we open ourselves to God's decrees of universal love, producing for the eternal good, will we be able to glorify the Father.

For this very reason, the Master was clear in His statement.

May our activity, within life, produce fruit of peace and wisdom, love and hope, faith and joy, justice, and mercy.

All of this, in worthy and constant personal work, for, only then, will the Father be glorified by us, and solely on this condition will we be disciples of the Crucified and Redemptive Master.

46

On the Cross

"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself!

Matthew 27:42

Yes, He had redeemed many.

He had extended love and truth, peace, and light.

He had cured the sick and resurrected the dead.

Even so, for Himself, they lifted the cross among thieves.

In truth, for someone who had exalted himself so much, who had reached the pinnacle, indirectly suggesting the condition of the Redeemer and King, the fall was enormous.

He was the Prince of Peace and was defeated by the war of inferior interests.

He was the Savior and did not save Himself.

He was the Righteous One and suffered supreme injustice.

The Lord lay scourged and defeated.

For the human consensus, it was an extreme loss.

He had fallen, however, on the cross.

Bleeding, but standing.

Tortured, but with open arms.

Relegated to suffering, but suspended from Earth.

Surrounded by hatred and sarcasm, but with His heart raised to love.

He was toppled, vilified, and forgotten; yet, the other day, He transformed His pain into divine glory.

His head was bent, bloodstained, on the wood of the cross.

And He was there, resurrected, in the light of the Sun, in the breath of a garden.

The dark defeat turned into a resplendent victory.

It covered the outrageous wood with celestial clarity for the whole Earth.

The circle of our lives is not different. Do not stumble into the easy triumph or the cheap halo of the crucifiers.

Whenever circumstances compel you to modify your route of life, it is advisable to prefer the sacrifice of yourself, converting your pain into support for many, since all those who receive the cross, in favor of the neighbor discover the path of eternal resurrection.

47

Self-Liberation

"For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it."

Paul (1 Timothy 6:7)

If you wish to emancipate the soul from the dark shackles of the "self", begin your self-liberation course by learning to live as if you "Had all things, and had nothing", were "with everyone and without anyone".

If you arrived on Earth as a pilgrim, in need of warmth and help, and you know that you will leave it by yourself, you should conform to live alone, serving all, in favor of your spiritual growth for immortality.

Remember that by virtue of the laws governing the destinies, each creature is or will be alone, in its own way, acquiring the science of self-improvement.

Consecrate yourself to the good, not only for your own benefit, but, above all, for the love of the good in itself.

Really great is he who knows his own smallness, before the infinite life.

Do not impose yourself, deliberately, driving away sympathy; you will need the others' participation in the execution of your task.

Never assume that your pain is greater than that of the neighbor, or that the situation that pleases you is the one that should please those who follow you.

Something that is encouraging to you, may scare away many, and the material of your joy may be a poison to your brother.

Above all, fight the tendency towards personal resentfulness with the same persistence used in the hygiene service of the bed on which you rest.

Many offenses kept, are a worthless weight for the heart.

Keeping the others' sarcasm or insult would not be the same as cultivating others' thorns in our house?

Clear your mind every morning, and go on, in the certainty that we will settle our accounts with Him, who has lent us life, and not with the men that squander it.

Let reality help your vision, and you will find the divine happiness of the anonymous angel, which confuses itself in the glory of the common good.

Learn to be alone, in order to be freer in the performance of the duty that unites you to all, and with the thought in tune with the Celestial Friend, who took the narrow way of the cross.

Let us not forget Paul's warning, when he tells us that with allusion to any material possessions:

“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.”

48

Before the Lord

"Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say."

Jesus (John 8:43)

The language of Christ always sounded indecipherable and strange to many learners.

Do all the good as possible, even when evils are numerous and growing.

-Lend without demanding retribution.

-Excuse incessantly.

-Love your opponents.

-Help bad people and slanderer ones.

Many people listen to the Good News, but the teachings do not penetrate their minds.

It happens to many followers of the Gospel because they use their mental force in other sectors.

They vaguely believe in the heavenly help in hours of bitterness, showing, nevertheless, absolute disinterest in the face of the study and application of the divine laws.

The preoccupation with material possession absorbs their existence.

Such individuals claim:

- The gold from the soil;
- The bread from the barn;
- The usable linen;
- The balance of the flesh;
- The pleasure of the senses.

It is also included the social consideration with such lust that they do not remember the position of simple users of the world where they inhabit.

They never reflect on the transience of all the material patrimonies.

The unique function of such patrimonies is providing them with an appropriate environment for the work in charity and light.

Hence, the aggrandizement of the eternal spirit.

They pay attention to the calls of Christ; despite that, they furiously handcuff their attention to the demands of primary life.

They notice, but they do not hear.

They inform themselves, but they do not understand.

In this field of contradictions, we always have reputable personalities, and sometimes, admirable friends.

They hold in their hearts enormous potentials of goodness, yet their mind lives engaged in the game of the perishable forms.

They are precious and worthwhile service stations, nonetheless, with the equipment occupied in activities more or less useless.

Let us not forget, therefore, that it is always easy to observe the language of the Lord, but one has to present Him the heart empty of the Earth's debris, to receive, in spirit and truth, His divine word.

49

The Fraternal Union

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Paul (Ephesians 4:3)

In front of your eyes, a thousand paths unravel every time you remember to gaze at the far vanguard.

There are millions of paths surrounding yours. Do not forget your trail and advance courageously.

You would estimate, perhaps, that all routes subordinated to yours, and you refer to the union as if the other travelers of life should gravitate around your steps.

Join others without demanding that others join you.

Search for what is useful and beautiful, holy and sublime, and proceed.

The spring of water searches the rivulet; the rivulet seeks the river, and the river flows into the sea.

Let us remember that spiritual unity is a fundamental service of peace.

Do you see the brother who devotes himself to children?

Do you notice the companion willing to help the sick?

Can you identify the care of him who became a friend of the elderly and the young?

Have you ever noticed the effort of those who decided to consecrate themselves to the soil improvement or the education of animals?

Do you appreciate the service of the one who is an indoctrinator in the expansion of the good?

Honor each of them, with your gesture of understanding and serenity, convinced that only by the roots of comprehension, can the tree of fraternal union be sustained, a tree which we all want robust and full.

Do not admit that others see life through your eyes.

Evolution is an infinite stairway. Each one covers the landscape according to the step in which one places himself.

Come closer to each servant of good works by offering him the best you can, and he will answer you with his best part.

War is always the poisonous fruit of violence. Sterile strife is the result of imposition.

The fraternal union is the sublime dream of the human soul.

Still, it will not take place without our respecting each other, cultivating harmony in the face of the environment, where we heard the calling to serve.

And we will only reach such an achievement through:

“Unity of the spirit by the bond of peace.

50

Let Us Move Forward

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.

Paul (Philippians 3:13-14)

On the Christian path, we always find a large number of brothers who remained down in the shadow of unproductiveness, declaring themselves injured by spiritual disasters.

It is someone who mourns the loss of a dear relative, called for the transformation of the tomb.

It is a worker who felt lacerated by the incomprehension of a friend.

It is the missionary who has immobilized before the slander.

It is someone who regrets a friend who has deserted the Good Fight.

It is the servant of the good works, who cry indefinitely for the abandonment of his wife, who did not notice his affectionate dedication.

It is the idealist who waits for the material fortune to begin the achievements that fall to him.

It is the cooperator who remains in the expectation of employment richly paid to consecrate himself to good works.

It is the woman who walks into the complication of the complaint against uncomprehending relatives.

It is the collaborator who feels scandalized by the defects of the neighbor, freezing the possibilities of serving.

It is the one who deplores a wrong done, despising the blessings of time in destructive remorse.

However, if the past preserves the virtues of experience, seldom is it the best driver of life for the future.

It is imperative to exhume the heart of all numbing wraps, which, sometimes, enshroud our souls.

The religiousness, longing, hope, and scruple are sacred, but they should not represent an impediment to access the Upper Sphere.

Paul of Tarsus, who had known terrible aspects of the human striving in the intimacy of his heart, and who rose to the culmination of the apostolate with Christ, offers us a safe route to spiritual improvement:

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining toward what is ahead.”

It is the essence of his fraternal warning to the Community of Philippi.

Let us focus our energies on Jesus and move forward.

No one progresses without renewing himself.

51

Open Graves

"Their throats are open graves"

Paul (Romans 3:13)

As he referred to the spirits transgressed from the light, Paul asserted that their throat is like an open tomb. In this image, we can frame many companions when they move away from the Royal Path of the Gospel to the awful tracks of delinquent personalism.

As soon as they settle in the dark empire of the self, forgetting the obligations that place us in the Divine Kingdom of Universality, their throat transfigures into a real unveiled tomb.

All the poisoned bile that overflows from their soul spills, like a vase of mud, and then they tune in, exclusively, with the evils that still bother neighbors, friends, and companions.

All they see are their defects, the sick areas, and weak points of the goodwill people who share their march.

They weave long comments on the examination of others ulcers, rather than healing them.

They eliminate precious time in long and ferocious lectures, blackening the intentions of others.

And also overwhelm the imagination with depressing images in the fields of suspicion and mental intemperance.

Above all, they complain about everything and everyone.

Besides that, these individuals project narcotic emanations of ill faith, extending discouragement and distrust.

They fight against the prosperity of sanctification, wherever they go, plundering flowers of hope and annihilating the immature fruits of charity.

Such apprentices, tremendously wretched by their conduct, seem to us, in fact, open tombs.

They exude ruins and toxic death.

Thus, when you deviate yourself to the slippery region of lamentations and accusations, usually undue, reconsider your spiritual steps.

Keep in mind that our throat should be consecrated to the good; since, only then will our voice express through it, the sublime word of the Lord.

52

Serving and Marching

"Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees."

Paul (Hebrews 12:12)

If it is difficult to obtain a healthy production in the common crop, to bring the bread for the body, it is almost sacrificial the work for the acquisition of spiritual values. Such values mean the living and imperishable nourishment of the soul.

Someone plants the seed of goodwill, but a thousand hurdles hinder its germination and growth:

It is the alluvium of futilities of inferior life;

The invasion of worms, symbolized in the hassles of all sorts;

The mud of envy and spite;

The thunders of incomprehension;

The hail of evil;

The debris of slander;

The heatwave of responsibility;

The cold of indifference;

The dryness of disagreement;

The couch grass of ignorance;

The clouds of worries;

The dust of disenchantment.

All the imponderable forces of human existence somehow conjugate, and when together, they focus and go against the one who wishes to advance in the route of the right practice.

Until we reach the divine inheritance, which constitutes our destiny, the fall is always simple.

The uplift, though, is a work of sweat, persistence, and sacrifice.

Do not recoil before the struggle if you have your heart enveloped in the higher atmospheres of life.

Although you have got to face all sorts of difficulties, go on, offering for the service of perfection, all you have of noble, beautiful, and useful.

Remember the advice of Paul, and do not be inactive.

Move your tired hands to work, and lift your disjointed knees, convicted that if you aim at the best part of life, it is necessary to serve and proceed, incessantly.

53

In the Preaching

So, I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less?

Paul (2 Corinthians, 12:15)

There are numerous companions of salvationists sermon that gladly go to golden tribunes, discoursing preciously on the merits of goodness and faith.

Yet, once invited to contribute to good works, they drawback before the idea of spending money, and go away hastily, under senseless allegations.

A thousand obstacles impede them from practicing charity, and they go towards different sectors, where the real doctrine does not constitute them any discomfort for a calm life.

In fact, in the legitimate practice of the Gospel, we should not only spend from what we have but also give from what we are.

It is not enough to empty the safe and solve questions related to body experience. It is essential to give ourselves, through the sweat of collaboration and spontaneous effort in solidarity, to fulfill entirely, our primary duties before Christ.

Whoever does not commit himself for the benefit of his companions in any way solely knows the lessons of the High in word circles.

Many people expect the love of others to love, when such an attitude only means procrastination of the sanctifying enterprises, which constitute our responsibility.

He who helps and suffers out of devotion to the Good News collects heavenly resources of force to act in general progress.

Let us remember that Jesus, in favor of all, not only donated from what He could retain for His benefit, but also made the self- donation for the general elevation.

Preachers who do not expend energies, and do not spend financial resources for the aggrandizement of redemptive ideas of Christianity, are orchids of the Gospel, on the problematic support of others' possibilities. Still, those who sacrifice for the upbringing of everyone is the robust tree of the Eternal Good, manifesting the Lord in the rich soil of real fraternity.

54

Let Us Search with Zeal

"But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way."

Paul (1 Corinthians, 12:31)

The idea that no one should seek to learn and perfect oneself to be more useful to the Divine Revelation, is much more a subterfuge of consecration to idleness than an attempt of incipient humility.

Life is an advanced course of improvement, through effort and struggle, and if the very stone must undergo the painful presence of the chisel to reflect the light, what should we say about ourselves, called, for now, to externalize the divine resources?

Let nobody interrupt the blessed service of his education, under the excuse of being cooperating with Heaven because progress is a train with indefatigable wheels, which leave behind those who rebel against the imperatives of the front.

It is indispensable to move forward with the consequent betterment of everything that surrounds us, and the Gospel does not endorse any attitude of feckless expectation.

Paul's word is quite significant. Addressing the Corinthians, the Apostle of the Gentiles recommends that you seek with great devotion the best gifts.

We must prepare ourselves to acquire the noblest qualities of intelligence and heart, sublimating the imperishable individuality.

Culture and sanctification, through work and fraternity, constitute a duty for all creatures.

Self-improvement is an obligation that falls to us all.

Let us search with zeal, the spiritual elevation of ourselves, by leaving the mark of our presence, wherever it is, with the blessings of service for the benefit of all.

Therefore, as soon as we are integrated into the worthy effort, into the personal and unceasing action for the good of our neighbor, the Almighty will unveil us more illuminated paths for the ascension.

55

Elucidations

You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake.

Paul (2 Corinthians 4:5)

We, the apprentices of the Good News, when in true communion with the Lord, we cannot ignore the need of putting our individuality in second place, to project to the multitude, with the desirable advantage, the teachings of the Master.

In matters of Christian life, properly considered, the only justifiable passions are those of learning, helping, and serving because we know that Christ is the Great Planner of our accomplishments.

If we remember that His supervision always acts in favor of what we can do best, we will live attentive to the work that comes to our hands, convinced that His word remains unchanged in the circumstances of life.

Therefore, our fundamental concern, anywhere, should consist in the service in His Name, understanding that the preaching of ourselves, with the propaganda of particularities characteristic of our personality, will be the simple interference of our self in works of eternal life which respect to the Kingdom of God.

When writing to the Corinthians, Paul defines his function, and of the other Apostles too: they were servants of the community, for the love of Jesus.

There can be no more evident indication of the duties that fall to us.

The leadership of the Divine Master is increasingly alive, and the general programming of the services reserved for disciples of all conditions remains structured on His Gospel of Wisdom and Love.

Let us look for the foundations of Christ so that we do not act in vain.

Let us adjust ourselves to the consciousness of the Great Renovator so that we are stronger when facing our impulses of domination, once, in all environments and situations, the friend of the Good News is invited, called, and constrained to serve.

56

Be Reborn Now

"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Jesus (John 3:3)

The very Nature has precious lessons in this regard. The years succeed each other with mathematical accuracy, but the days are always new.

Hence, in a year of three hundred and sixty-five occasions of learning and restarting, annually, how many opportunities for moral renewal will the creature find, in the blessed period of one's existence?

We ought to keep from the past what is good and fair, beautiful and noble, but not the debris and shadows, even when masked by a lovely coating.

In the domains of your initiative for the practice of real fraternity, do for yourself the work that your negligence will fatally throw on the shoulders of your benefactors and spiritual friends.

Every hour that comes up is a carrier of readjustment. If it is possible, do not leave for later the bonds of love and peace that you can create now, in substitution for the heavy handcuffs of disaffection.

It is not easy to break old precepts of the world or open the heart in favor of those who hurt us. Though, the best antidote against the toxicity of aversion is our goodwill. This, in favor of those who hate or still do not understand us.

While we linger in the defensive fortress, the adversary considers enriching the ammunition; but, if we go down to the square, serene and fearless, showing new dispositions in the struggle, the idea of agreement replaces, within us and around our steps, the dark fermentation of war.

Does someone hurt you? Restart the effort of harmony in the relationship.

Does anyone have difficulty understanding you? Keep on demonstrating the noblest intentions.

Let yourself revive, each day, in the crystalline and the constant stream of Good.

Do not forget the Master's affirmative:

"No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Be born now for your purposes, deliberations, and attitudes, working to overcome the obstacles that surround you, and reaching the anticipation of the victory over yourself, in time.

It is better to help, even today than to be helped tomorrow.

57

Apostles

"For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings."

Paul (I Corinthians 4:9)

The apostle is the educator par excellence. In the apostles lies the improvisation of work and self-sacrifice. Hence, the minds of the disciples are transformed and illuminated towards the upper dimension.

The legislator formulates decrees that determine balance and justice in the outside field of the social sphere.

The administrator enjoys the use of the material and human resources, activating the machine of material services.

The priest teaches people the forms of the faith, in primary manifestations.

The artist beautifies the path of intelligence, waking the heart to the uplifting messages that the world encompasses in its content of spirituality.

The scientists surprise the realities of Divine Wisdom, created for the evolution of the creatures, and reveal their visible or perceptible expression to the common knowledge.

The thinker probes fleeting phenomena.

The physician assists the sick body.

The warrior disciplines the crowd and establishes order.

The worker is the active minstrel of forms, perfecting the vases destined for the preservation of life.

The apostles, nevertheless, are the guides of the spirit.

In all the major causes of Humanity, they are living institutions of the revealing example, breathing in the world of causes and effects, offering in themselves the essence of what they teach, the truth they demonstrate, and the light they bring around the others.

They interfere in the elaboration of thoughts of the wise and the ignorant, rich and poor, noticeable and humble. So, renewing their way of being and believing so that the world may be aggrandized and sanctified.

From the apostles arises the equation of facts and ideas, of which they constitute pioneers or defenders. And they do it in a regimen of the total donation of themselves, for the benefit of all.

That is the reason they live on Earth working and struggling, suffering, and growing without rest, with several phases on the crosses of pain and incomprehension.

They bring with themselves the spiritual yeast that leavens the mass of progress and perfecting. The apostles' journey in the world, according to the definition of the apostle Paul, as if God had placed them in the last places of human experience, like condemned to unceasing suffering.

It is this way because in these men condense the positive demonstration of the good for the world, the possibility of actuation for the Superior Spirits, and the source of imperishable benefits for the whole Humanity.

58

Disciples

"And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

Jesus (Luke 14:27)

The Christian circles of every sort remain full of students classified in the discipleship of Jesus, with unsurpassable verbal enthusiasm, as if the legitimate connection with the Master were circumscribed to a matter of words.

In fact, nonetheless, the Gospel leaves no doubt regarding this.

The life of every conscious man is a set of duties towards himself, to the family of hearts that gather around his feelings, and the whole Humanity.

It is not so easy to fulfill all these obligations with the full approval of the evangelical guidelines. It is indispensable to smooth out the rough edges of one's own temperament, ensuring the balance that is peculiar to us.

It is also imperative to contribute efficiently in favor of all those who surround us on our journey, giving each one what belongs to him, and serving the community of which we are parts.

Without rectifying ourselves, we will not correct the route in which we march.

Crooked trees do not project blameless images.

If we seek the sublimation with Christ, let us listen to the divine teachings.

In order to be His disciples, it is essential for us to be firmly engaged in conducting the cross of our testimonies of the good's assimilation, following His steps.

There are apprentices who take with them the cross of redeeming ordeals, but they do not follow the Lord, committing themselves to indignation through hardening and escape.

Others appear, following the Master in well-made phrases, but they do not carry the cross that belongs to them, abandoning it at the door of neighbors and companions.

Duty and renovation.

Service and amelioration.

Action and progress.

Responsibility and spiritual growth.

Acceptance of the good’s imperatives, and obedience to the Lord's standards.

Only after such acquisitions will we attain the real Communion with the Divine Master.

59

Words of Eternal Life

"You have the words of eternal life."

Simon Peter (John 6:68)

Words surround you in all phases of the struggle and at all angles of the path.

Respectable phrases that refer to your duties.

The loving word brought by dedicated friends, that reinvigorate and comfort you.

Comments and interpretations that do not refer to you; do not concern you.

Suggestions from various sources.

Valuable lectures.

Empty speeches that your ears throw into the wind.

Spoken words... Written words...

Among the verbally articulated or silent expressions, with which your mind develops, you will find, however, the words of Eternal Life.

Keep your heart listening.

They are born from the unfathomable love of Christ, as the pure water of the immense bosom of the Earth.

You frequently remain distracted from them, and you do not observe their warning, their song, their lesson, and beauty.

Be attentive in the world, isolated from yourself, so that you do not lose their taste and clarity.

They urge you to consider the greatness of God and to live in conformity with His Laws.

They refer to the Planet as our home and to Humanity as our family.

They reveal in love, the bond that unites us all.

They indicate in work our roadmap for evolution and improvement.

They unveil the divine horizons of life and teach us to look up to the highest and the beyond.

Words, words, words...

Forget those that incite you to uselessness.

Take advantage of all that show you the fair obligations, and that teaches you to aggrandize the existence, but do not forget the phrases that awaken you to the light and the good.

They can penetrate our hearts through a friend, a letter, a page, or a book, but, deep down, they always proceed from Jesus, the Divine Friend of Creatures.

Retain with you the words of eternal life because they are the sanctifiers of the spirit, in the daily experience, and, above all, our safe mental support in the difficult times of outstanding renovations.

60

Alms

"But give as alms those things that are within."

Jesus (Luke 11:41)

The word of the Lord is always structured in luminous beauty, which we cannot lose sight.

In the chapter of alms, the Master's recommendation, within the narrative of Luke, deserves special notes.

"But give as alms to the things that are within you."

Giving what we have is different from giving what we detain. Charity is sublime in all aspects under which it is revealed to us, and under no circumstances should we forget the admirable abnegation of those who distribute bread and clothing, medication and assistance to the body, learning and teaching solidarity.

It is fair, though, to point out that fortune and authority are goods that we detain provisionally, in the common march, and that on the substantial foundations of life, they do not belong to us. The Owner of all power and wealth in the Universe is God, our Creator and Father, who lends resources to men according to the merits or needs of each one.

Let us not forget, then, the donations of our inner sphere, and ask ourselves: What do we have from ourselves to give?

What kind of emotion are we communicating to others? What reactions do we provoke in our neighbor?

What do we share with our daily struggle companions? What is the stock of our feelings?

What kind of vibrations do we spread?

To diffuse goodness, no one needs to cultivate shrill laughter or cheap smiles. In order not to give stones of indifference to the hearts hungry for fraternity bread, it is indispensable to amass in our spirit the reserves of good understanding by issuing the treasure of friendship and understanding which the Master has entrusted to us in service for the good of those around us, near or far.

It is always reduced the charity that feeds the stomach but does not forget the offense; the one that is not willing to serve directly or does not light the light for the ignorance.

The Divine Instructor's warning in Luke's notes means: - Give alms from your inner life, help spontaneously, spread joy and vitality, opportunity for growth and elevation among your companions; be dedicated brothers to the neighbor, for, in truth, the love that radiates in blessings of happiness and work, peace, and trust, is always the greatest gift of all.

61

Never Discourage

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."

Luke 18:1

Do not allow external problems, including those of your own body, to become a hurdle for the work of your illumination.

While you are in the material plan, like the crust of the Earth, you will always be faced with difficulty and pain.

The lesson given constitutes the way to new lessons. Behind the solved enigma, other enigmas will appear.

The function of the school cannot be other, than teaching, exercising, and perfecting.

Then, fill yourself with calm and encouragement, in all situations.

You were placed among a thousand obstacles of a strange nature, so that, by overcoming inhibitions in the outside, you may learn to overcome your own limitations.

As long as the earthly community does not adapt to the new light, you will breathe surrounded by unsettling tears, careless gestures, and dark feelings.

Be ready to forgive and always help, in order that you do not miss the glorious opportunity for spiritual growth.

Remember all the afflictions that surrounded the Christian spirit, in the world, since the coming of the Lord.

Where is the Sanhedrin that condemned the Celestial Friend to death?

Where are the vain and domineering Romans?

Where are the executioners of the nascent Good News?

Where are the warriors who made run sweat and dark rivers of blood around the Gospel?

Where are the shrewd princes who fought and negotiated in the name of the Crucified Renovator?

Where is the darkness of the Middle Ages?

Where are the politicians and inquisitors of every sort, who wounded in the name of the Excellent Benefactor?

Driven by time to the cliffs of ash, they fortified and consolidated the pedestal of light, in which the figure of Christ shines, increasingly glorious, in the government of the centuries.

Focus on the effort to help in the common good, follow with your cross, to meet the divine resurrection.

In the embarrassing surprises of the march, remember that first and foremost, it is important the permanent habit of praying, by working, serving, learning, loving, and never discouraging.

62

Slowly but Surely

Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

Paul (2 Corinthians 4:16)

Observe the spirit of sequence and gradation that prevails in the minimal sectors of Nature.

Man accomplishes nothing by leaps, and, in the program of Divine Law, there is no privilege anywhere.

The corn cob is filled with grain to grain. The tree develops, millimeter by millimeter. The forest is born from minimal seeds.

The construction is raised, piece by piece. The fabric begins on the threads.

The most famous pages were written, letter by letter.

The richest city is built, inch by inch. The greatest fortunes of gold and gems were extracted from the soil, fragment by fragment.

The longest road is paved, meter by meter. The great river that flows into the sea is a cluster of liquid fillets.

Do not abandon your big dream of knowing and doing, in the higher domains of intelligence and feelings, but do not forget the little works in the daily routine.

Life is a renewing process, everywhere, and according to the sublime word of Paul, even if the flesh is corrupted, the imperishable individuality is perfected, incessantly.

However, so that we do not change in the opposite direction to the Almighty's expectation, it is indispensable that we know how to persevere with the endeavor of self-improvement, in constant vigilance, in the activity that helps and ennobles us.

If any divine ideal dwells in your spirit, do not forget the daily service so that such an ideal can take place in due course.

Is there an opportunity for accomplishment? Act with regularity, with the soul directed towards the goal.

Are there mishaps and struggles, thorns and stones on the path?

Proceed, even so. Time, the relentless ruler of civilizations and men, marches only at sixty minutes an hour, but it never ceases. Let us keep the lesson and move forward with the improvement of ourselves.

Slowly, but surely.

63

Differences

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus (John 13:35)

In the various schools of Christianity, we see thousands of people who, somehow, bind themselves to the Master and Lord.

There are hearts that praise highly the Great Physician, exalting His divine intercession in the events they recognize they were favored, but they do not surpass the spectacular affirmations, as if they lived indefinitely immersed in wonderful visions.

They are the simple beneficiaries and dreamers.

There are ardent tempers that impress from the tribune with erudite and touching lectures, in which they relate the position of the Great Renovator, in religion, philosophy, and history, not advancing, however, beyond the brilliant speeches.

They are simply priests and preachers.

There are exquisite intelligences that pour out sublime pages of comforting beliefs, reducing to tears the readers, avid for the light of knowledge; nevertheless, they do not go beyond the field of religious belletrism.

They are the simply writers and intellectuals.

They all keep specialized resources and merits. There is, though, in the works of the Good News, a different kind of cooperator.

He praises the Lord with thoughts, words and deeds, every day. He distributes the treasure of the good, through the consoling verb, whenever possible.

He writes edifying concepts, around the Gospel, whenever the circumstances allow it.

He still surpasses all spoken or writing speeches, acting incessantly in the sowing of the good, in works of self-sacrifice and pure love, in the manner of action that the Christ bequeathed to us. He does not ask for reward, does not ask for results, does not tune with the evil. He blesses and helps always.

Such a companion is known as a true disciple of the Lord, for loving very much.

64

Sowers

“A farmer went out to sow his seed.’

Jesus (Matthew 13:3)

Every teaching of the Divine Master is profound and sublime, even in the smallest expression. When He sets out to tell the parable of the sower, He begins with a teaching of inestimable importance, which is worth remembering.

He does not tell us that the sower should act by contract with third parties, but that he himself went out to sow.

Transferring the image to the soil of the spirit, in which so many imperatives of renovation invite the workers of goodwill to the sanctifying farming of elevation, we are led to recognize that the servant of the Gospel is compelled to go out of himself in order to benefit the others' hearts.

It is necessary to disintegrate the old jail of the "point of view" to devote ourselves to the service in favor of others.

As we learn the science of our leaving the dark chain of the “self”, we tour through the great continent called "general interest".

In its infinite extension, we will find the "land of souls," suffocated with thorns, grated by poverty, clothed with stones or intoxicated with marshes, offering us the divine opportunity to be useful to all.

It was on this route that the Divine Sower modeled the ministry of light, initiating the heavenly mission of assistance.

It started among humble animal caretakers and continued through the friends of Nazareth and the doctors of Jerusalem, the talkative Pharisees and the simple fishermen; the righteous and the unjust, the rich and the poor, sick of body and soul, old and young, women and children...

As we have seen, the sower of the Heavens was absent of the greatness to which He belongs and has come to us, spreading the clarity of the Revelation and ameliorating our vision and discernment.

He humbled Himself to exalt us and confused Himself in the shadow in order that our light could shine, although it was easy for Him to make Himself replaced by millions of messengers if He wished.

Let us, therefore, move away from our inhibitions and learn from the Christ to **"Go out to sow."**

65

Do Not Mistake Yourself

"You are judging by appearances. If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as they do."

Paul (2 Corinthians 10:7)

Do not fool yourself about our general need for perfecting ourselves.

Frequently, by overestimating our values, we believe we are privileged in the art of elevation. In such circumstances, we often forget, unthinkingly, that others are doing much more for the good of the neighbor than us.

The firefly lights tiny lightning in the darkness and considers itself the prince of the light, but it finds the lit candle, which overshadows it.

The candle flaunts itself on domestic furniture and presumes that it lies on the absolute throne of clarity; though, there comes a day when the electric lamp shines high above, darkening its flame.

In turn, the lamp grows proud in the public square, but, each morning, the sun shines in the firmament, brightening the whole Earth and turning pale all the large and small planetary lights.

While the protective and educative shadow of the flesh prevails, we are often victims of our illusions, but, as the infinite glint of truth returns, with the renewal of physical death, we find, in the sun of the spiritual life, that the Divine Providence is a glorious love for the whole Humanity.

Do not exchange reality for appearances.

Let us respect every realization in its time and every person in their due place. We are all companions of evolution and improvement, still kept between good and evil.

Where we activate our "inferior part", the shadow of others will remain in our company. From the area to which we project our "good part", the neighbor's light will come in our direction.

Each soul is always incognito to another soul. Hence, it will not be lawful to build the tranquility walls on the foundations of the neighbor's feelings.

Let us not cultivate illusions.

Let us rectify in us all that hinders our inner peace and let us show fraternal arms and thoughts in all directions, in the certainty that if we are bearers of virtues and defects, at times of the judgment, we will always receive following our works.

And, understanding that the Goodness of the Lord shines for all creatures, regardless of people, let us remember on our behalf and behalf of others, Paul's meaningful words:

“If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as they do.”

66

Wake up and Stand Up

"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Paul (Ephesians, 5:14)

Many companions of ours sleep, indefinitely, as the glorious day of experience on Earth emerges in vain for them.

They vaguely perceive the constant production of Nature, but they do not remember the obligation of doing something to cooperate on the collective progress.

In the face of the tree, covered with fruits, or the bee that weaves the honeycomb, they do not think of the simple duty to contribute to the general prosperity.

In general, they resemble dead people, preciously adorned.

There comes, though, a time when they awake and begin to praise the Lord, in admirable ecstasy...

However, it does not suffice. There are many brothers with eyes open while keeping the soul in the horizontal position of idleness.

Awakened hearts must rise to life; rise to work on the sowing and the harvest of good, so that the Master may enlighten them.

Let us strive to alert our asleep companions without forgetting the need to assist them in the uplift.

It is essential to know how to improvise the indispensable resources to help our affectionate or not, who need to stand up for Jesus' blessings.

Recommendations are not enough.

Whoever prescribes service and virtue to the neighbor, without first preparing their comprehension through the spirit of fraternity, can be compared to the demanding instructor who requires from the student a complete knowledge about some valuable books, without first teaching him to read.

Paul says: - **"Wake up, sleeper; rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."**

And we will repeat: - "Let us wake up to the higher life and stand up at good works, and the Lord will help us, so that we may help others."

67

Way of Feeling

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

Paul (Ephesians 4:23)

For many centuries man has used reasoning, obedient to almost unchanged rules, comparing external factors, according to old observation processes.

He governs the physical life with big changes in the fundamental organic operations field and handles the word as someone who uses the indispensable elements of a building of stone, earth, and lime.

In the circles of the external nature, in itself, the changes in any aspect are minimal, except advanced progress in science and industry techniques.

In sentiment, however, the changes are deep. Educated peoples do not take pleasure in the slavery of the neighbor; do not play with other people's lives with impunity, and do not applaud systematic and deliberate cruelty, as formerly.

Through the heart, the ideal of mankind has sublimated the mind in all the environments of the Planet.

A worker can demonstrate high intelligence and ability, but if he does not show devotion towards the service, he will be always a conscious device of repetition, as much as the stomach is a digesting machine, since millennia.

Solely through inner renewal does the soul progress in the direction of the perfected life.

Before Christ, thousands of men and women died on the cross; nevertheless, the Master's wood converted in inextinguishable light, by the quality of feeling with which the crucified Man gave Himself over to the sacrifice, influencing the way to feel of nations and eras.

Growing up in kindness and understanding is extending the vision and sanctifying the objectives in the ordinary experience.

Above all, Jesus came to us to teach us that Love is the path to Abundant Life.

Do you live besieged by pain, affliction, shade, or illness? Renew your way of feeling, by the standards of the Gospel, and you will see the Divine Purpose of Life, acting in all places, with justice and mercy, wisdom and understanding.

68

Sowing and Construction

"For we are coworkers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

Paul (1 Corinthians 3:9)

When Paul asserted his condition of God's cooperator, designating the building and the tillage of the Lord in the followers of the Gospel and beneficiaries that surrounded him, he delineated the spiritual context that will always exist on the Earth in improvement, among those that know and those who ignore the divine truth.

If we have already received the light from the Good News for our journey, we are compulsorily considered collaborators of the ministry of Jesus, and it is up to us to sow and build it in all the creatures that share the road.

Therefore, we know, in essence, what service the Good News indicates to us as soon as we approach the Christian light.

If we already keep the blessing of the Master in our heart, it is up to us to restore the balance of life flows, where we are, by helping those who undermine themselves, seeing for those who lie blind, and hearing something for those who remain deaf.

By doing so, the Divine Kingdom's work grows, progresses, and sanctifies all the Earth.

The service consists of planting and edification, demanding personal effort and goodwill towards all, for, following the very symbology of the Apostle, the vegetable asks for time and care to grow, and a house is not built in one day.

Everywhere, nonetheless, we see stonemasons who complain about the weight of the brick and sand; and growers who detest the requirements and fertilizers for the protection of the fragile plant.

The teaching of the Gospel, though, leaves no room for doubts.

If you already know the benefits of Jesus, you are His cooperator, in the vine of the world, and the human spirit for Eternity building.

Go forward in the task entrusted to you, and do not fear. If faith represents our crown of light, the work in favor of all is our daily blessing.

69

Firmness and Constancy

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Paul (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Many people believe that embracing faith means giving themselves to unproductive ecstasy.

Under the excuse of guaranteeing the soul enlightenment, many hearts flee from the struggle, closing themselves up between the four walls of the domestic sanctuary amidst vigils of adoration and deep thoughts about the divine mysteries, forgetting that the whole of life is a Universal Creation of God.

Faith represents a vision.

Vision is the knowledge and ability to help.

Whoever penetrated the "spiritual land of truth" has found in work the highest grace.

The Lord and the disciples did not live solely in contemplation.

They did pray because no one can sustain themselves without the inner bath of silence, restoring the forces in the superior flows of the sublime energy coming from the Celestial Fountains.

Prayer and reflection constitute the subtle lubricant in our machine of daily experiences.

Tough, it is necessary to recognize that the Master and the apprentices fought, served, and suffered in the active tillage of the good; and that the Gospel establishes unceasing work for all those who have adopted its saving principles.

Accepting Christianity means renewing oneself for the Heavens, and only the environment of service can restructure the spirit and sanctify its destiny.

Paul of Tarsus, invariably peremptory in the warnings and recommendations, by writing to the Corinthians, emphasized the need for our steadfastness and constancy in the tasks of spiritual elevation so that we have an abundance of noble deeds with the Lord.

Acting by helping, creating joy, harmony, and hopes, opening new horizons to superior knowledge, and improving life, wherever we are, is the apostolate of all those who have devoted themselves to the

Good News.

Let us seek the living waters of prayer to appease our hearts. However, let us not forget to activate our arms, feelings, and reasoning in the progress and improvement of ourselves, everyone and everything, being aware that Jesus needs diligent workers to build His Kingdom throughout the Earth.

70

Solitude

"Why? What crime has he committed?" Asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

Matthew 27:23

While you elevate yourself up the mount, in the performance of your duty, you experience the solitude of the summits, and an immeasurable sadness compresses your sensitive soul.

Where are the ones who smiled with you in the vernal park of your first youth?

Where are the hearts that sought your comfort in the hours of fantasy?

Where lie those who shared with you the bread and dream, in the cheerful adventures of the beginning?

They remained there, for sure...

They stayed in the valley, flying in a narrow circle, in the manner of golden butterflies, which break apart at the first contact of the smallest flame of light that opens before them.

Around you, the light, but also the silence...

Within you, the happiness of knowing, but also the pain of others' incomprehension...

Your voice screams without echo, and your yearning grows in vain.

Yet, if you rise spiritually, what ears could hear you in the great distance, and what a heat-hungry heart of the valley would come to understand, readily, your high ideals?

You cry, suffer, and reflect...

But what kind of rebirth will not be painful?

To free itself, the bird destroys the eggshell cradle where it formed itself, and, to produce, the seed suffers the laceration in the unknown pit.

Solitude with work to favor the neighbor generates greatness.

The rock that sustains the plains lives in isolation, as the Sun, which feeds the whole world, shines on its own. Never tire of learning the science of elevation. Remember the Lord, who scaled the Calvary, with the shoulders wounded by the Cross. No one followed Him in the ignominious death, except two criminals, constrained to be punished, in obedience to justice.

Remember Him and go on...

Do not list the good works you have already done.

Trust in the Eternal Good that awaits you.

Do not wait for the others in the march of sacrifice and aggrandizement. Do not forget that for the cause of the ministry of redemption that He wielded for all creatures, the Divine Friend of Men not only lived, fought, and suffered alone, but He was also persecuted and crucified.

71

Take Advantage

"If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen."

1 John 4:20

Life is a process of soul growth towards the encounter with the Divine Greatness.

Take advantage of the struggles and difficulties of the path to the expansion of yourself, widening your circle of activities and relationships.

Let us learn in order to enlighten. Let us become greater to protect.

Let us educate ourselves in order to serve.

With the act of doing and giving something, the soul extends more and more beyond...

By keeping the blessing received only for itself, the spirit often solely adorns itself, but, as it spreads the wealth it carries, it grows constantly.

In the provision of service to the neighbor, it is naturally incorporated into the chorus of joys it provokes.

In the teaching to the learner, it binds to the benefits of the lesson.

In the creation of good works, in work, in virtue or in art, it lives in the progress, in the sanctification or beauty, with which the individual and collective experience broaden and perfect.

In the distribution of healthy and elevated thoughts, it becomes a living source of grace and contentment for all.

In the spontaneous participation, within the ministry of goodness, it binds to the common prosperity. Therefore, give of yourself, of your strength and resources, acting continuously, in the institution of new values, helping others, for the benefit of yourself. The world is a vast path of evolution and improvement, where, at your side, travel the ignorance and weakness.

Take advantage of the glorious opportunity for expansion that the physical sphere confers to you, and help those who pass, but you should not consider any kind of payment. The neighbor is our liaison

bridge to God. If you seek the Father, help your brother by supporting each other, because, according to the illuminated word of the evangelist:

“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.”

72

Incomprehension

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."

Paul (1 Corinthians 9:22)

Incomprehension, arguably, is just like darkness before the light; however, if the vocation for the light marks your inner self, keep on fighting the shadows, in the smallest nooks of your way.

Do not forget, though, the law of cooperation and observe its principles, in the face of action.

When one descends in order to help, he does the divine art of all those who have conscientiously reached the higher life. Dazzling light produces blindness.

If the stars of wisdom and love inhabit your heart, do not humiliate who passes through the fog of ignorance and evil. Graduate the manifestations of yourself, so that your help does not be destructive.

If the rain flooded the desert indefinitely, on the pretext of quenching its thirst, and if the Sun burned the lake, without measure, with the excuse of subtracting from it the moist clay, we would never have a climate suitable for the production of utilities for life.

Do not make yourself too superior before the inferior, or excessively strong before the weak.

Not all the apprentices leave the schools, enabled en masse, but only a few every year.

Every stewardship demands a sense of responsibility, but it also demands a sense of proportions.

Keep the constructive energy of the respectable example, but do not forget that the science of teaching only triumphs integrally in the advisor who knows how to protect, wait and repeat.

Then, do not clamor against incomprehension, using restlessness and disenchantment, vinegar and gall.

There are heavenly merits in the one who descends to the swamp without being defiled, in the task of salvation and readjustment.

The amount of dense matter is covered with mud when flung to the muddy well, nevertheless, the ray of light visits the bowels of the abyss and leaves it without modifying it.

What would become of us if Jesus had not darkened his own brightness, making Himself similar in our weakness, in order that we testified His redemptive mission? Let us learn with Him, to descend, helping without harm to ourselves.

And in this sense, we cannot forget Paul of Tarsus' expressive statement when he states that for the victory of the good:

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."

73

Fraternal Encouragement

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

Paul (Philippians 4:19)

Do not think you are alone in the purifying endeavor, for the Lord will fulfill all our needs.

Raise your eyes to the High and, from time to time, contemplate the rear.

If you find yourself in the position to serve, then help and proceed.

Remember the brother who delays without resources, in the abode of destitution.

Think of the companion who hears the sobs of his little children, without possibilities to dry their tears.

Stop to see the sick one who circumstances chased away from home. Make a pause for a moment, giving the little homelesss child a sympathetic look.

Reflect on the anguish of the mentally unbalanced, confused in the eclipse of the reason.

Think of the disabled persons, handcuffed to painful immobility.

Meditate on the mothers' hearts, tortured by the shortage of bread and harmony in the domestic sanctuary.

Interrupt, here and there, the hurried pace, in order to help the blind man, groping in the shadows.

It is possible, then, that your own pain disappears before your eyes.

If you have arms to help and a head enabled to reflect on the good for the neighbor, you are really superior to a king who possessed a world of precious coins, without the courage to help anyone.

When you become able to overcome your afflictions, to create the joy of others, the happiness of others will seek you, wherever you may be, in order to improvise your fortune.

May the sickness and sorrow never impede your journey.

It is preferable for us that death surprises us in service than waiting for it, in a luxurious armchair.

My brother, light a new flame of encouragement, in the center of your soul, and move forward...

Be the angel of fraternity to those who follow you, dominated by affliction, ignorance, and suffering.

When you plant the joy of living in the hearts that surround you, soon the flowers and the fruit of your sowing will enrich your path.

74

When There is a Light

"For Christ's love compels us."

Paul (2 Corinthians 5:14)

When Jesus finds a sanctuary in the heart of a man, this man modifies entirely his march.

There is no more place within him for the unproductive worship, for the belief without works, the inoperative faith.

Something undefinable in the earthly language upsets his spirit. People, in general, categorize him as a misfit. Despite that, the apprentice of the Gospel, coming to this condition, knows that the Divine Worker occupies the depths of his being.

His whole conceptualization of existence is renewed. What yesterday was a pleasure, today is a broken idol. What meant an aim to accomplish, is now a wrong route that he abandons.

He becomes someone who is content with little, but very difficult to please.

The persuasive and sweet voice of the Master exhorts him to serve without rest.

His soul turns into a wonderful estuary, where the sufferings rest, seeking support, and due to this, he suffers the constant pressure of the others' pains.

The very physical life seems to him a wood, in which the Master suffers. His body is the living cross on which the Lord suffers, crucified.

The only refuge on which he rests is the persevering labor for the general good. Dissatisfied, though resigned; firm in faith, however, anguished; serving everyone, but alone with himself, he continues, on the road, impelled by hidden and indescribable stings...

This is the kind of apprentice that the love of Christ constrains, in the happy expression of Paul. The celestial light whips him in his inner self, until he definitely leaves the inferior zones. To the world, he will be a misfit and crazy. For Jesus, he is the vessel of blessings. The flower is a beautiful promise, wherever it is. The ripe fruit, however, is nourishment for Today.

Blessed are those who spread hope, but blessed be the followers of the Christ who sweat and suffer, day by day, in order that his brothers be comforted and nourished in the Lord!

75

Management

"Give an account of your management."

Jesus (Luke 16:2)

In essence, every man is a servant for his work in the work of the Supreme Father and, simultaneously, is administrator, because every human creature has enormous possibilities in the plane in which the church.

Butler of the world is not only the one who hair, at the head of collective interests, in public enterprises or individuals, fighting a thousand trillion, in order to fulfill the mission what do you work on Each Earth intelligence will give you the resources that were entrusted.

Fortune and authority are not the only values we should today and tomorrow.

The body is a sacred temple.

Physical health is a treasure.

The opportunity to work is a blessing.

The possibility of serving is a divine favor.

The opportunity to learn is a liberating door.

Time is an invaluable asset.

Home is a gift from Heaven.

The friend is a benefactor.

Beneficial experience is a great achievement.

The occasion of living in harmony with the Lord, the neighbor and Nature is a glory common to all.

The time to help the less fortunate of resources or understanding is valuable.

The ground to sow, the ignorance to be instructed and the pain to be consoled are appeals that Heaven sends without words to the whole world.

What do you do, therefore, of the precious talents that rest in your heart, in your hands and on your way? Sail on your own task in the good, before the Eternal, because the time will come in which the Divine Power will ask you: -

"Give an account of your administration."

76

Spiritual Yeast

"Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?"

Paul (1 Corinthians 5:6)

The yeast is a substance that excites other substances, and our life is always a spiritual yeast with which we influence the existence of others.

No one lives alone.

We have with us, thousands of expressions of others' thoughts, and thousands of other people inevitably keep our mental attitude in their minds.

The rays of our influence get suited to the emissions of all those who know us directly or indirectly, and such rays weigh in the balance of the world for the good or the evil.

Our words determine words in who hears us, and, whenever we are not sincere, the interlocutor is likely to be equally disloyal.

Our manner and habits generate manner and habits of the same nature in around our steps, especially in those who are in a position inferior to ours, in the circles of experience and knowledge.

Our attitudes and actions create attitudes and acts of the same content on all those who surround us, once what we do reaches the domain of the others' observation, interfering in the center of elaboration of our neighbor's mental forces.

The only process, therefore, of reforming in an edifying way, is by accepting the suggestions of the right, and practicing them intensively, through our actions.

In the origins of our determinations, however, resides the idea.

The mind, in view of this, is the headquarter of our personal performance, wherever we are.

Thought is spiritual fermentation. First, it establishes attitudes, then generates habits, and then governs expressions and words, by means of which the individuality influences life and the world. Once regenerated, then, the thought of a man, the way that leads him to the Lord is revealed to him clean and straight.

77

Our Father

“Our Father..."

Jesus (Matthew 6:9)

The greatness of Sunday prayer will never be properly understood by us, who receive its divine lessons.

Every word, within it, has the gleam of a sublime light.

At first, the Divine Master sets its foundations in God, teaching that the Supreme Donor of Life must constitute, for us all, the principle and the purpose of our tasks.

It is necessary to begin and continue in God, associating our impulses with the divine plan, so that our work is not lost in the useless or ruinous movement.

The Universal Spirit of the Father will preside over our humblest effort, in the act of thinking and speaking, teaching and doing.

Then, with a simple possessive adjective, the Master exalts the community.

After God, the Humanity will be the fundamental theme of our lives. We will understand the needs and afflictions, the evils and the struggles of all those who surround us, or we will be segregated in the primitivist selfishness.

All triumphs and failures that illuminate and obscure the Earth somehow belong to us. The hiccup in one hemisphere reverberates in the other. The neighbor's pain is a warning to our home.

The error of a brother, examined in the essence, is equally ours, for we are imperfect components of a less perfect society, generating dangerous causes, and for this reason, tragedies and failures of others affect our inner self.

When we understand such reality, the "empire of the self" becomes incorporated as a blessed cell into the sanctifying life.

Without the love of God and for the Humanity, we are not sufficiently safe in prayer.

"Our Father..." Said Jesus to begin. Father of the Universe... Our world...

Without associating ourselves with the Father's purposes, in the small task we were allowed to perform, our prayer will often be a simple repetition of the "I want", invariably full of desires, but generally empty of good sense and love.

78

Divine Grafting

"And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again."

Paul (Romans 11:23)

Every creature, in truth, is a spiritual plant, object of meticulous care on the part of the Divine Sower.

Each man, as it occurs to the vegetables, presents different periods in the existence.

Sowing, germination, fertilization, development, blooming, fruiting, harvesting...

On the eve of the fruits, the grower devotes himself, with more care, to the amelioration of the tree's conditions. It is essential to have abundance and advantage. In the spiritual striving, in an identity of circumstances, the Lord adopts equal rules with us.

As we reach the knowledge, reason, and experience, the Celestial Grower bestows us a precious resource of spiritual grafting, with a view to our sublimation to eternal life.

Every new day of your human experience, you receive a valuable support, in order that the results of the present incarnation enrich you with divine light, on account of the happiness that you transmit to others.

You are, though, a "conscious tree," with independence to accept or not the renewing elements, with the freedom to register the blessing, or to despise it.

Notice, carefully, how often the Sublime Sower summons you for your spiritual aggrandizement.

The grafting of the High seeks us through a thousand ways. Today, it is in the constructive talk of a companion. Tomorrow, it will be in a friendly book.

Later, it will come by means of a seemingly insignificant gift from the path.

Thus, if you keep the purpose of the elevation, take advantage of Heaven's contribution, illuminating and sanctifying the inner temple.

Still, if unbelief, for the time being, isolates your mind, entangling your forces in the reel of selfishness, the graft of sublimation will seek you in vain, because you still do not produce, in the recesses of the spirit, the sap that favors the Abundant Life.

79

Let Us Pursue Peace

"They must seek peace and pursue it."

1 Peter 3:11

There are many people who seek peace; in spite of this, only a few people try to follow it.

There are companions who desire tranquility by all means, and they sigh for peace, placing it in various positions of life; however, they banish it out of themselves, as soon as the Lord grants them the graces requested.

This man asks for material wealth, believing that it is the carrier of the coveted peace; nevertheless, with the advent of plentiful money, he tortures himself, in a thousand problems, for ignoring how to distribute, to help, administer and spend with simplicity.

Another one pleads for the blessing of marriage; though, when Heaven grants him this, he does not know how to be a brother of the companion and gets lost in exasperations of all sorts.

Still another, claims for special titles of trust in expressive tasks of public utility; nonetheless, when he sees himself honored by the popularity and expectation of many, he repels the blessings of work and runs away in terror…

Peace is not the body idleness. It is the health and joy of the spirit.

If it is true that every creature searches for it, in his way, it is imperative to recognize, however, that the legitimate peace results from the balance between our desires and the purposes of the Lord, in the position where we find ourselves.

Once received the work that the Celestial Trust gives us to perform, it is necessary to know how to use the opportunity in favor of our elevation and enhancement.

Peter said:

-"Seek peace and pursue it..."

Even so, there is no real tranquility without Christ in us, in any situation in which we are, and the formula of integration of our soul with Jesus is invariable:

-"Deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Without this adaptation of our endeavor of human learners to the renovating impulse of the Master, instead of peace, we will always have renewed war in the heart.

80

Fattened Hearts

"You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter."

James 5:5

For the prosperity and improvement of the world, works the Sun, which is the supreme expression of the Vital Divinity in the earthly firmament.

The worm cooperates in the intimacy of the soil, preparing a suitable nest for the seeds.

The breeze also contributes, permuting the pollen from flowers.

The water strives, incessantly, entertaining the physical life and purifying it.

The tree serves all, blossoming, fruiting and regenerating the atmosphere.

The animal cooperates too, helping the human achievements, sweating and dying, in order that there is a normal life in the domain of higher intelligence.

Indefectible, the law of labor governs the Universe.

The movement and the order, in the constancy of the benefits, constitute its essential characteristics.

There are, however, millions of people who feel exonerated from the glory of serving.

For these creatures, whose senses sleep, empty and numb in their brain, the work means banishment and humiliation, hell and suffering.

They chase after wrong easiness, with the same instinct of novelty of the fly in search of debris.

Once they find the lower-order solution, they circumscribe the hours and possibilities in the rampant attachment of themselves, imitating the well of stagnant waters that are easily poisoned.

Deep down, they are "fatted hearts", according to the happy expression of the apostle. They create dense webs of hatred and selfishness, indifference and vanity, pride and sloth upon themselves, and gravitate downwards.

Down, through the heavy vibrations to which they are accommodated, they roll slowly into the bosom of the inferior lives, where it is natural that they find the demand of the many who take advantage of them, in the manner of the common man who uses fat animals for slaughter.

81

The Living Candle

"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

Jesus (Matthew 5:15)

Many apprentices interpreted such words of the Master as a call for systematic preaching, and they lost their head in vehement speeches everywhere.

Others assumed that the Lord imposed on them the obligation to force their neighbors, through the compulsory propaganda of the belief, according to their peculiar point of view.

In truth, the edifying speech and fraternal help are indispensable to expand the divine benefits of faith.

Without the word, the distribution of knowledge is almost impossible.

Without brotherly protection, the fraternity will not materialize in the world. The assertion of Jesus, however, reaches beyond.

Let us consider the symbol of the candle. The light on the candle consumes force or fuel.

Without the sacrifice of energy or oil, there is no light.

For us, here, the material of maintenance is the possibility, the resource, the life.

Our existence is the living candle.

It is an unfortunate mistake to spend our strength, to no avail at all, under the measure of our selfishness, vanity or personal limitation.

Let us put our possibilities at the disposal of our brothers and sisters.

No one should harness the advantages of the earthly experience only for himself.

Every spirit, temporarily incarnated in the human circle, enjoys immense prerogatives, as for the diffusion of the right, if he perseveres in the observance of Universal Love.

Preach, therefore, the revelations of the High, making them more beautiful and brighter on your lips; urge with relatives and friends to accept the imperishable truths, but do not forget that the living candle of spiritual enlightenment is the perfect image of yourself.

Turn your energies into redemptive goodness and understanding, to all the people, spending, for this, the oil of your goodwill, in renunciation and in sacrifice, and your life, in Christ, will really start shining.

82

Whoever Serves, Proceeds

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."

Jesus (Mark 10:45)

Everywhere, Nature is a divine laboratory that chooses the spirit of service by the normal process of evolution.

The sharp eyes observe the cooperation and the aid in the simplest manifestations of the lower realms.

The pit serves the seed. The seed will enrich the man.

The wind helps the flowers, exchanging their principles of life.

The flowers will produce blessed fruits.

The rivers give of themselves to the sea. The sea makes the fertilizing cloud.

To maintain human life, at the stage it is found, thousands of animals die on Earth from hour to hour, giving flesh and blood to benefit men.

We can infer from such a struggle that the service is the price of the liberating or sanctifying walk.

The person who is accustomed to being served invariably in all environments does not know how to act alone in any situation. The individual that serves for the pleasure of being useful, always progresses and finds a thousand resources within himself, in the solution of all problems.

The first crystallizes.

The second one develops.

Whoever complains excessively of others, for not estimating his own movement in the satisfaction of common needs, ends up by enslaving himself to the servants, ruining the day when he does not find anyone to serve the table for him.

Whoever learns to serve, though, knows how to reduce all the embarrassments of the path, discovering new trails.

A gospel apprentice who does not improvise the joy of helping others, remains very far from true discipleship, once the faithful companion of the Good News is informed that Jesus came to serve, and devotes Himself, in favor of all, until the end of the struggle.

If there is more joy in giving than in receiving, there is more happiness in serving than in being served.

Who serves, proceeds...

83

Let Us Go Further

"Therefore, let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God."

Paul (Hebrews 6:1)

Accepting the power of Jesus, keeping certain of one's own resurrection beyond the death, taking comfort from the benefits of belief, altogether constitute a rudimentary phase in the learning of the Gospel.

Practicing the lessons we have received, by engaging in them our personal experiences of each day, represents the living and sanctifying course.

The student who does not surpass the exercises of the alphabet will never acquire the luminous mental domain of the great masters. It is not enough to situate our soul in the portico of the temple, and there bend the knees reverently; it is indispensable to return to the ordinary paths and achieve, in ourselves, the principles of the redemptive faith, sublimating the common life.

What can we say about the worker who only visited the door of his workshop, praising it for its greatness, without, however, devoting himself to the work it asks?

What of an admirably equipped ship, which lived indefinitely on the beach without sailing?

There are thousands of Good News believers in this regrettable position of standstill. They are usually right in all the rudiments of Christ's doctrine. They believe, adore and take comfort impeccably; yet, they do not march forward, in the sense of becoming wiser and nobler.

They do not know how to act, neither do they know how to fight, or suffer, when seeing themselves alone, from the human point of view.

In order to prevent such evils from happening, Paul affirmed, with deep prudence:

"Therefore, let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God."

Let us, therefore, avoid the position of the student who studies and never harmonizes with the lesson, also remembering that if repentance is useful, here and then, the repenting at all times is a sign of stubbornness and addiction.

84

In Instrumentality

Even lifeless instruments like the flute or the harp must play the notes clearly, or no one will recognize the melody.

Paul (1 Corinthians 14:7)

Every companion in Christian service should see themselves as instruments in the hands of the Divine Master, so that the sublime harmony of the Gospel may be irreproachable for the complete victory of the good.

However, if the unlimited wisdom of the Heavenly Issuer remains sovereign and perfect, the earthly receivers sin, due to lamentable deficiencies.

This individual has faith, but he cannot tolerate the faults of his neighbor.

That one endures Christianly the neighbor's weaknesses; in spite of this, he does not have the energy even to govern his own impulses.

The other is kind and confident, but he escapes the study and meditation, favoring ignorance.

Another, nevertheless, is imaginative and enthusiastic, but subtly flees from physical effort.

One is an excellent adviser, yet he does not sanctify his own deeds.

Another man has a brilliant verb in doctrinal preaching; despite that, he is a votary of less dignified anecdotes, with which he disfigures the respect for the revelation of which he is a carrier.

Still another esteems the chastity of the body, but he loses control when it comes to the acquisition of easy money.

The other man, further on, has conquered the detachment from possessions of gold and earth, house and mill, but he cultivates a real fire in the flesh.

Our imperfection of Good News followers is indisputable. That is why we have the title of apprentices.

The Planet is not the finished paradise and we are, in turn, very far from the condition of angels.

Still, obeying or managing, teaching or fighting, it is imperative to tune our instrument of service by the diapason of the Master, if we do not wish to harm His works.

Let us avoid insecure, indistinct or disturbing execution of our tasks, by offering Him full goodwill, and the Divine Kingdom will manifest more quickly wherever we are.

85

Hindrances

"Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Paul (Hebrews 12:1)

The great Apostle of the Gentiles sees the Christian work as a career of the soul, on the wide stage of life.

Paul, naturally, when resorted to this image, he thought of the Greek games of his time. Without our referring to the enthusiasm and beneficial emulation that should rule such efforts, let us remember solely the initial act of the competitors.

Each participant in the competition would take out the outer clothing to compete with a clothing as light as possible.

Thus, also in the acquisition of eternal life, it is necessary to get rid of the suffocating outfit of the spirit.

It is imperative that the heart is light, by jettisoning all useless burden.

In the light of the Good News, the disciple finds himself at the head of the Master, invested with sanctifying obligations towards all creatures.

Inhibitions against a successful career generally appear every day. We frequently have them in the most insignificant steps of the way.

Each hour emerges the unexpected impediment: It is the cold and incomprehensible relative.

The dryness of the hearts around us.

The companion who defected.

The woman who disappeared, pursuing inferior goals.

The friend who deceived himself on the islands of repose, deliberating to delay the journey.

The co-worker that death took with it. The gratuitous hatred.

The indifference to the invitations of good.

The persecution of evil.

The storm of discord.

The Good News, nevertheless, offers the Christian the conquest of divine glory.

If we are to achieve the goal, let us put aside all hurdles and let us run, with perseverance, in the proof of love and light that is set before us.

86

Are You Sick?

"And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up."

James 5:15

All human creatures get sick, but rare are those who cogitate about the real cure.

If you are sick, do not believe that the drug action, through the mouth or the pores, can fully restore you.

The pill helps, the injection is useful; though, never forget that the true evils proceed from the heart.

The mind is a creative source.

Life, little by little, shapes what you want around your steps. What is the use of external medication, if you continue sad, distressed or rebel?

At other times, you ask the help of human doctors or spiritual benefactors, but when the first signs of recovery appear, you abandon the medicine or the salutary advice and turn back to the same abuses that have led you to illness.

How to regenerate health, if you waste long hours in the environment of wrath or discouragement?

The rare indignation, when fair and constructive in the general interest, is always a good when we know how to guide it in lifting services; yet, the daily indignation, about everything, everyone and ourselves, is a pernicious habit of unforeseeable consequences.

Discouragement, in turn, is an anesthetizing environment, which numbs and destroys.

What can we say about the slander or uselessness, with which you spend long and valuable time in unfruitful conversation, quenching your strength?

What a miraculous genius will give you the organic balance if you cannot keep silent, nor forgive; if you do not help or understand, and if you do not humble yourself for the superior purposes, nor seek harmony with men?

No matter how fast the rescue assistants of the Earth and the Spiritual Plane work in your favor, you devour your own energies; a careless victim of indirect suicide.

If you are sick, my friend... Above any medication, learn to pray and to understand, to help and to prepare the heart for the Great Change.

Detach yourself from transient goods that have been loaned to you by the Divine Power, according to the Law of Use, and remember that now or later, you will be brought back to the Greatest Life, where we always find our own consciousness.

Avoid brutality. Enrich your factors of personal sympathy by practicing fraternal love.

Seek intimacy with wisdom, through study and meditation. Do not stain your way.

Serve always.

Work on the extension of the right.

Guard loyalty to the superior ideal that enlightens your heart, and remain convinced that if you cultivate the prayer of living faith, in all your steps, here or beyond, the Lord will raise you up.

87

Have You Received the Light?

"Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"

Acts 19:2

The catholic collects the sacrament of baptism and receives a seal for personal identification in the statistics of the Church to which he belongs.

The reformer of the evangelical letters enters the same ceremonial and conquers a number in the religious register of the temple he attends.

The Spiritist is incorporated to this or that institution consecrated to our Consolatory Doctrine and verbally participates in the renewing work.

All these apprentices of the Christian school, take comfort and rejoice.

Some share the contentment of the Eucharistic table, which raises their hope in Heaven; others sing together, exalting the Divine Goodness, touting great material of stimulus on the sanctifying journey; still others gather around the fiery prayer, and receive luminous and revealing messages of celestial emissaries, who consolidate their conviction in immortality, beyond ...

All these positions, however, are of benefit, advantage, and consolation.

It is imperative to recognize, despite that, that if the seed is aided by the sun, water, and fertilization, it is forced to work within itself in order to produce.

Thus, meditate on the sublimity of the apostolic question: -

"Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"

Be assured of the revelation with which faith benefits you and sanctifies your way, spreading the good.

Your life can become a wellspring of blessings for others and for your soul, if you devote yourself, in truth, to the Master of Love. Remember that it is not you who wait for the Divine Light. It is the Divine Light, the force of Heaven beside you, which remains awaiting you.

88

Coming to One's Senses

"When he came to his senses…"

Luke 15:17

This little part of the prodigal son parable awakens precious considerations around life.

Judas dreamed of the Gospel's political dominion, interested in the compulsory transformation of creatures; nevertheless, when he woke up from such illusion, it was too late, because the Divine Friend had been handed over to cruel judges.

Other characters of the Good News, yet, came to themselves, in time to reach their redeemer rectification. Mary of Magdala had placed the intimate life in the hands of perverse geniuses; in spite of that, coming to her senses, under the influence of Christ, she notices the lost time and conquers the highest spiritual dignity, through humility and renunciation.

Peter, intimidated by the threats of persecution and suffering, denies the Divine Master; though, coming to his senses, when faced with the compassionate gaze of Jesus, weeping bitterly, he advances, resolute, for his rehabilitation in the apostolate.

Paul gives all of himself in the wild passion against Christianity, and pursues, furiously, all the manifestations of the nascent Gospel, but when coming to himself, before the sublime call of the Lord, he repents of his errors and becomes one of the most brilliant contributors to the Christian triumph.

There is a great mass of believers of all sorts, in the most diverse lines of faith; nonetheless, confusion and doubt reign among them, because they live immersed in the purely verbose interpretations of heavenly revelation, in fantastical joys, in the lies of the carnal hour or magnetized to the peel of the life to which they attach themselves, imprudent.

For them, joy is the immediate interest satisfied, and peace is the fleeting sensation of comfort in the body of flesh, without any pain, so that they can eat and drink without hurdles.

Even so, come to your senses, under the blessing of Jesus, and, transferring yourself, then, from inertia to unceasing labor for your redemption, you will observe, astonished, how life is different.

89

On Our March

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

Mark 10:51

Every apprentice with his lesson.

Each worker in the task that was committed to him. Each vase with its utility.

Every fighter with the necessary proof.

So, each of us has his individual testimony on the path of life.

Sometimes we fail to meet assumed commitments, and we make endless debts. In the repairing service, yet, we cry out for the mercy of the Lord, asking for compassion and help.

The question addressed by the Master to the blind man of Jericho is, nevertheless, quite expressive.

"What do you want me to do for you?"

The interrogation reveals that the delicate position of the interested was adjusted to the imperatives of the Law.

Nothing happens in the absence of the Divine Will.

Bartimaeus, the blind man, knew how to answer, asking for the vision. Though, how many people pray for access to the Savior's presence, and when approached by Him, they answer against their own soul?

Let us remember that, sometimes, we lose the earthly house in order to learn the way of the heavenly house; on many occasions we are abandoned by the most agreeable human bonds, in order to return to the divine bonds; there are times when the body wounds are called to heal the wounds of the soul, and situations in which paralysis teaches the preciousness of movement.

It is natural for us to ask for the Master's help in our difficulties and annoyances; despite that, let us not forget to work for the good, in the most distressing passages of rectification and ascension, convinced that we are invariably in the most just and profitable work opportunity we deserve, and that we may not know, at once, to choose a better one.

90

Bravely

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."

Paul (I Corinthians 16:13)

Be watchful in the common activities. Stand firm in faith, before the storm.

Behave bravely in all difficult moments.

Be strong in pain, so as to keep its lesson of light.

Paul's advice to the Corinthians, even today, is characterized by surprising opportunity. In order to conquer the substantial values of redemption, it is indispensable to keep the inner strength of one who trusts in the Lord and in himself.

It is no use crying the rain of nonsensical tears in the face of the mistakes committed. Repenting us of any evil gesture is a duty, but lamenting it indefinitely is stealing time from the rectification service.

Of course, the deliberate evil is a crime, but the unintended error is a valuable teaching, whenever a man turns to the Lord's will.

Without moral resistance, in the whirlwind of purifying conflicts, the nobler heart breaks into pieces.

It is not up to us, therefore, to rest on the service of elevation.

It is natural that we should stumble many times. It is understandable that we often get hurt by the thorns of the path. Woeful, yet, will be our situation every time we demand a soft hammock of undeserved consolations, interrupting the march to the High.

The Christian is not an apprentice of undue rest. Disciple of a Master who served until the cross, it is up to him to work in the sowing and the crop of the Infinite Good, watching, helping, and acting bravely.

91

Love Problems

"... That your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight."

Paul Philippians 1:9)

Love is the divine force of the Universe. It is necessary, however, the use of much alertness, in order not to deviate it from the fair application.

When a man devotes himself, absolutely, to his perishable coffers, this energy in his heart is called "greed".

When he gets afflicted, exclusively, for the defense of his possessions, judging himself as the center of life, in the place where he is, this same force becomes in him the "selfishness".

When he sees only motives to praise what he represents, what he feels and does, with manifest disrespect for others' values, the feeling that predominates in his orbit is called "envy".

Paul, writing to the loving Philippians community, formulates an indication of high range.

He assures:

"… That your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best." Therefore, let us instruct ourselves in order to know.

Let us educate ourselves to discern.

Intellectual culture and moral improvement are imperatives of life, enabling us the manifestation of love, in the empire of sublimation that allows us to approach God.

Let us listen to the apostolic advice and grow in spiritual values for the eternity, for, often, our love is simply the act of "wanting", and with "wanting" alone, it is possible to disfigure, unthinkingly, the most beautiful images of life.

92

Demonstrations of Heaven

So, they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you?

John 6:30

At all times, when someone on Earth refers to the things of Heaven, a multitude of inquirers comes asking for objective demonstrations of the announced truths.

Hence, modern mediums are constantly besieged by demands of those who seek the spiritual life.

This man is a seer and must give proof of what he identifies.

That one writes in supranormal conditions and is constrained to provide testimony of the sources of his inspiration.

Another materializes the disincarnated ones, and for that reason, he is summoned to the public test.

Yet, many people forget that all the creatures of the Lord manifest the signs that regard to them.

The mineral is recognized for its utility. The tree is selected by the fruits.

The firmament spreads messages of light. The water gives news of its unceasing work.

The air spreads information, without words, of its power in the preservation of life.

The same imperatives prevail among men.

Each brother of the struggle is examined for his characteristics.

The fool is recognized for his puerilities.

The smart one reveals demonstrations of prudence.

The best shows the virtues that are peculiar to him.

In this manner, the apprentice of the Gospel, when requesting revelations from Heaven to the journey on Earth, he must not forget the need to reveal himself firmly willing to walk to Heaven.

There was a day when the vulgar mob approached the Savior Himself, who had benefited it, by asking:

– "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you?"

Imagine, then, that if people made such question to the Lord, what question will not be made from the High to us, whenever we pray for signs of Heaven, in order to fulfill our simple duty.

93

Inner Altar

"We have an altar."

Paul (Hebrews 13:10)

So far, we have built altars everywhere, revering the Master and Lord.

Of gold, marble, wood, clay, covered with perfumes, treasures, and flowers; we erect shrines and summon the presence of the art to the artificial lighting touches and exterior beauty.

Once materialized the monument of faith, we kneel in an attitude of prayer and seek the divine inspiration.

Indeed, every move in this direction is respectable, even when we make the common mistake of forgetting the hungry ones on the road in favor of the sumptuousness of worship, since love and gratitude to the Heavenly Power, even when improperly conducted, deserve veneration.

Yet, it is vital, growing in the greater life.

The Master Himself warned us, together with the Samaritan woman, that times would come when the Father would be worshiped in spirit and truth.

And Paul adds that we have an altar. The ultimate purpose of stone temples is to awaken our consciousness.

The awake Christian, though, walks officiating as a priest of himself, glorifying love before the hatred, peace in the face of discord, serenity before the disturbance, and the good in the face of evil…

Let us not forget, therefore, the intimate altar, which is up to us to consecrate to the Divine Power and the Celestial Goodness.

Coming before the stone altars, with a soul closed to the light and the inspiration of the Master is the same as throwing a waterproof safe of darkness into full solar clarity. If the light waves are still light waves, the shadows do not change either.

Let us, therefore, present to the Lord our offerings and sacrifices in blessed shares of love to the neighbor, worshiping Him, through the altar of the heart, and let us continue in the work that is up to us to do.

94

Helmet of Hope

"And the hope of salvation as a helmet."

Paul (1Thessalonians, 5: 8)

The helmet is the defense of the head, in which life places the center of manifestation of thinking, and Paul could not cite a more suited symbol to the garment of the Christian brain, than the helmet of the hope of salvation.

Anesthetizing rays are sent to the spirits of the apprentices by all forces contrary to the saving Gospel.

The demand of all and the indifference of many seek to crystallize the disciple's energy, dispersing his noble impulses or neutralizing his ideals of renewal.

Even so, it is imperative to wait always for the development of the latent principles of the good, even when the transitory evil expands roots in all directions.

It is necessary to wait for the strengthening of the weak, in the manner of the farmer, who does not lose confidence in the little sprouts.

It is important to await the joy and courage of the sad, with the same expectation of the florist that counts on revelations of perfume and beauty in the garden full of bare branches.

We should recognize, nonetheless, that the Christian's serenity will never represent an inoperative attitude, for his constantly acting and improving people, things, and situations, in all the particularities of the way.

For this very reason, perhaps, the apostle does not refer to a protective tuque; neither does he refer to a hat, which generally indicates leisure; when it does not set a convention in the exterior costume, according to the established fashion.

The helmet, even so, is an apparel, of fighting, effort, and defense.

And the disciple of Jesus is an effective combatant against evil, who does not have plenty of time to cogitate about himself, nor can he demand too much rest, when he knows that the Master himself remains in uplifting and active work.

Let us, therefore, guard our thoughts with the helmet of faithful hope and let us proceed to the supreme victory of the good.

95

See and Move Forward

"One thing I do know. I was blind, but now I see!''

John 9:25

Although the renewal work of the Gospel, in consolation and preaching circles, unfolds before the masses, sowing miracles of comfort in the people's soul, the subtle and almost unknown service of enjoyment of the Good News is always individual and non-transferable.

The apprentices of the Christian life, in the vulgar activity of the way, benefit from the concept of normality. Nevertheless, if they do not profit from advantages in the immediacy of life, such as consolation, or material prosperity, in order to record the living teaching of Jesus in their own lives, they fall into the category of strangers, often before their own companions of ministry. Having reached such a position, and if he knows how to seize the sublime opportunity through submission and diligence, the disciple experiences complete transposition of the plan.

He modifies the table of values that surround him.

He knows where are concealed the eternal foundations.

He reveals new spheres of struggle through the inner vision that others do not understand.

He discovers different reasons for elevating, by means of personal sacrifice, and identifies higher sources of motivation to his own effort.

Given this, he frequently provokes heated discussions about the attitude he adopts before Jesus.

Due to the fact of seeing with more clarity the instructions revealed by the Master, he is considered fanatic or retrograde, idiot or crazy.

If, however, you seek effectively the redemption with the Lord, move forward confident of yourself.

So, notice without strife or discouragement, the conflicts that the genuine action of Jesus in you, receives from incomprehensive and stationary hearts; repeat the words of the blind who has attained vision, and proceed.

96

Beyond the Others

"Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

Jesus (Matthew 5:46)

Working in the common time irreproachably, taking care of the household tasks, satisfying legal requirements, exercising the correctness of conduct, and making the enough in the sphere of urgent obligations, are tasks peculiar to believers and unbelievers on the daily routine.

Jesus, though, expects something more from the disciple.

Do you correspond to the necessary obligations of day labor, creating courage, joy, and encouragement around you?

Can you improvise the good, where other people have proved fruitless?

Do you take advantage of the material that was despised by others as worthless?

Do you wait, patiently, where others despair?

In the position of a believer, do you retain the spirit of service, where the unbeliever has frozen the spirit of action?

Do you share the joy of your friends, without envy and jealousy; and do you participate in the suffering of your opponents, without false superiority and boasting? What do you give of yourself to the ministry of charity?

Ensuring the continuity of species, revealing general utility and adapting to the movements of life, are characteristics even of the irrational ones.

The vulgar man, for many millennia, has drunk and fed, slept and acted without fundamental differences, in the collective order.

For twenty centuries until now, nonetheless, a blessed light shines on the Earth with the teachings of Christ, inviting us to climb the heights of the high spirituality. Not everyone realizes it; still, this involves all. But...

To all those who rejoice in its extraordinary blessings, the challenge of the Master arises, asking what of extraordinary we are doing.

97

The Word of the Cross

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.

Paul (1 Corinthians 1:18)

The message of the cross is painful at all the times.

From the Calvary, descended to the world a voice, at first unpleasant and incomprehensible. In the Martyrology of the Master, one could find all the arguments of a superficially absolute denial.

The complete abandonment of the most beloved ones.

The anguished thirst.

Irremediable capitulation.

Spontaneous pardon, expressing full humiliation.

Sarcasm and ridicule among thieves.

Defeat without defensive. Defamatory death.

But Christ uses the apparent defeat to teach the way of Eternal Resurrection, demonstrating that the "self" will never turn to God without the improvement and sublimation of the individual.

Even today, the language of the cross is foolishness to those who remain infinitely in the circle of low spiritual tenor reincarnations; these creatures do not want to do anything except conspire with death, exterminating the most beautiful blooms of feeling.

They dominate many, incapable of dominating themselves; they gather treasures that imprudence undoes, and weave dark threads of obsessive passions, in which they succumb, countless times, like the spider incarcerated in its own web.

Let us repeat the message of the cross to the brother who drowns in the flesh, and he will call us mad, but all of us, who have been saved from greater falls by the warnings of the renewing faith, we are informed that, in the supreme testimony, the disciple goes towards the Master, as much as the Master ascended to the Father, in the hidden glory of the crucifixion.

98

Charity Breastplate

"Let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate."

Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

Paul was infinitely wise when he recommended the breastplate of charity to the workers of light.

For the desired success in the mission of love we have set ourselves, guided by the Christ, first of all, it is indispensable to preserve the heart.

If we do not wrap the source of the feeling in the vibrations of the fiery love, served by a high understanding in the circles of the sanctifying experience we live on Earth, it is very difficult to succeed in the task the Lord has designated to us.

The permanent irritation, in the face of ignorance, postpones the advantages of the beneficial teaching.

The excessive indignation, before weakness, exterminates the fragile germs of virtue.

The frequent anger, in the field of strife, can multiply our enemies without any advantage to the work we devote ourselves.

Too much severity, before those who are still strangers to the benefits of discipline, brings counterproductive effects, due to the lack of education of the environment in which it is manifested.

Understanding, thus, that the Christian finds himself in a real situation of struggle, where we are sometimes confronted with suggestions of intemperate irritation, untimely indignation, unjustified anger, or destructive severity, the apostle of the Gentiles prescribed to us the breastplate of charity, as defensive sentinel of the central organs of life expression.

It is imperative to arm the heart with infinite fraternal understanding, to attend to the ministry to which we are committed.

The conviction and enthusiasm of faith suffice to begin honorably, but in order to continue the service, and finish it effectively, no one can dispense with the patient, benign and invincible charity.

99

Persevere and Go Forwards

"Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak kneels."

Paul (Hebrews 12:12)

The inattentive farmer usually listens to the suggestions of fatigue.

He interrupts the service by reason of the storm, then the flood robs has begun work and annihilates his incipient courage.

He rests, due to the calluses that the hoe caused him, and the worms take charge of canceling the service.

He raises his hands, initially, but he does not know how "to raise them again", in the continuity of the task, and he loses the harvest.

The traveler, in turn, when careless, does not know how to come conveniently to the end of the journey. He complains of the heat and falls asleep in the penumbra of illusory shelters, where unexpected dangers surprise him.

Other times, he stresses the importance of the bloody feet, and he lies down on the banks of the path, becoming a common beggar.

He has healthy knees, but not willing to mobilize them, when they are disjointed and injured, and he loses the joy of reaching the goal on the planned occasion.

So is it with us, on the spiritual journey.

The struggle is the means.

The perfecting is the end.

The disillusion brings bitterness.

The difficulty complicates.

Ingratitude causes pain.

The evil hurts. Even so, if we give up the field of the heart because we do not know how to raise our hands again, in the persistent effort, the worms of discouragement will proliferate, hasty, at the center of our dearest hopes, and if we do not want to march, with disjointed knees, it is possible that we are retained by the shadow of false refuges, for centuries in a row.

100

Absent

"Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples

when Jesus came."

John 20:24

Thomas, disgruntled, claiming for evidence, for not having witnessed the first visit of Jesus after death, created a symbol for all the unconcerned apprentices about their obligations.

It occurred to the absent disciple what happens to any worker far from his duty.

The spiritual edification, with its blessings of light, is also an educational course.

The student enrolled in school, without attending lessons, solely abuses of the host institution that has welcomed him, since the simple entry form does not solve the problem of apprenticeship.

Without mastery of the alphabet, he will not reach syllabication. Without the possession of words, he will never come to the science of phrases.

Identical process prevails in the evolution of the spirit.

Thomas was not with his friends when the Master came. He then made complaints, creating the kind of distrustful and demanding learner.

In spiritual works of improvement, the question is analogous.

The mate is enrolled in the higher life school; however, instead of devoting himself to the service of each day's lesson; he turns out to be merely a candidate for immediate advantages.

In general, he is never at the side of the other servants, when Jesus comes, and then he complains and despairs.

Logic, nevertheless, never abandons the straight path. Whoever wishes the divine blessing, should work to deserve it.

The absent apprentice from class cannot claim benefits deriving from the lesson.

101

The Curtain of the "Self"

"For everyone, they look out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ."

Paul (Philippians 2:21)

In truth, we study with Christ the divine science of connection with the Father, but we still find ourselves very far from the genuine communion with the divine interests.

Behind the curtain of the "self", we retain lamentable blindness in the face of life.

Let us examine impartially the attitudes that are peculiar to us, even in the good works, of which we are beginners, and we will observe that even there, in the matter of virtue, our individual whim percentage is invariably huge.

The ancient legend of Narcissus remains alive, in our smallest gestures, to greater or lesser extent.

Everywhere and in everything, we fall in love with our own image.

In the most beloved ones, we usually love ourselves, for, if they show different points of view, even when superior to the principles we have adopted, we instinctively weaken the affection that we had consecrated to them.

In the good works, to which we dedicate ourselves, we esteem, above all, the methods and processes that are externalized from our way of understanding and being, once if the service evolves or improves, reflecting the thinking of other personalities above our own, then, almost without realizing it, we operate the reduction of our interest in the work begun.

We accept the collaboration of others, but we find it difficult to offer the contribution that falls to us.

If we are in a superior position, we donate, with pleasure, a fortune to the needy brother, who follows us in the condition of subordination, so as to contemplate, joyfully, our noble qualities in the longtime recognition, to which he feels constrained.

Though, we seldom give a goodwill smile to the wealthier or stronger companion, set by the Divine Will in front of us.

In all the steps of human struggle, we find the virtue surrounded by vices, and dignifying knowledge almost suffocated by the thorns of ignorance, because, unfortunately, each of us, in general, lives in search of the "self."

Despite that, thanks to the Goodness of God, suffering and death surprise us, in the experience of the body and beyond it, and take us to the vast continents of meditation and humility, where we will learn, little by little, to seek what belongs to Jesus Christ, for our true happiness, within the glory of living.

102

Let Us Rejoice Always

"Rejoice always."

Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

The Gospel text does not exhort us to jubilation only on the days when we feel personally happy.

Paul asserted with simplicity: - "Rejoice always."

There is nothing in the world that cannot become a respectable reason for work, joy, and sanctification.

The very Nature, every day, exhibits expressive teachings in this particular.

After the storm that yanks roots, mutilates trees, destroys nests and covers the roads with mud, the sowing reappears, the trunk throws new sprouts, birds redo the suspended homes, and the road is crowned with the sun.

Only the man, the hero of intelligence, keeps the scowl of pessimism, indefinitely, as if he were an angry and disillusioned genius, interested in destroying what does not belong to him.

The continued absence of hope and joy in the soul means evolution in deficit.

One can find everywhere invitations to edification and improvement, challenging us to the action in the common betterment.

No one is so unhappy that he cannot produce any thoughts of goodness, nor so poor that he cannot give some smiles and good words to his companions in the daily activities.

The sadness of all the moments is rust in the cogs of the soul.

Contumacious lamentation is idleness, or destructive resistance.

It is necessary to awaken the heart and respond worthily to the part that is up to us in the evolutionary drama of life, without hatred, without complaint, or discouragement.

The experience is what it is.

Our companions are what they are.

Each of us receives the fair share of endeavor indispensable to the learning that we must achieve. No one is disinherited of opportunities in favor of the amelioration.

The great question is to obey God, to love Him, and to serve the neighbor with goodwill. Anyone who solved such a problem within himself knows that all the creatures and situations of the path are living messages, in which we can receive the blessings of love and wisdom, if we accept the lesson that the Lord offers.

In this sense, therefore, let us not forget that Paul, the intrepid defender of the Gospel, under storms of preoccupations, found in himself resources to say to the brothers of the journey:

- "Rejoice always."

103

Waiting and Reaching

"And so, after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised."

Paul (Hebrews 6:15)

The hope of attaining divine peace, with unalterable happiness, vibrates in all creatures.

The yearning of the patriarchs of antiquity is analogous to that of modern man:

The home crowned with blessings.

The duty well accomplished.

An edified consciousness.

The superior ideal conveniently attended.

Victorious work.

The happy harvest.

The aspirations of the soul are always the same, everywhere.

However, the act of waiting means persisting without fatigue, and reaching expresses triumphing definitively.

Until we reach the goal, it is imperative the presence of the constant and permanent effort.

Hope is not inaction, and patience translates peaceful obstinacy into the work we set out to achieve.

If you intend to materialize your purposes with Christ, keep the formula of patience as the only door open to victory.

Is there suffering in your tortured dreams? Incomprehension of many in around your desires? Do ingratitude and pain visit your spirit?

Do not weep, do not waste the minutes, nor curse the difficulties.

Await the surprises of time, acting without precipitation.

If every night is a new shade, each day is a new light.

Remember that not all waters are on the same level, and not all trees are the same in size, growth or species.

Remember the words of the Apostle of the Gentiles.

Waiting patiently, we will reach the promise.

Do not forget that the safe success is not of those who assault it, but of those who know how to act, persevere and wait for it.

104

Before the Crowd

"Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside."

Matthew 5:1

As the Gospel expands in the hearts, the behavior of the learned men towards the people will experience an increasing elevation.

Unfortunately, so far, rarely has the crowd found, on the part of great human personalities, the treatment that does justice to it.

Many people rise to the mountain of authority and fortune, intelligence and power, but simply to humiliate it, or forget it later.

Countless priests are enriched by knowledge and seek to subdue it as they wish.

Crafty politicians exploit its passions to their own advantage.

Tyrants disguised as guides, poison its souls and throw it into the precipice of destruction, like the hangmen of the herd, who separate the cattle for the slaughter.

Judges, less prepared for the dignity of the obligations that they perform, confuse its reasoning.

Less scrupulous administrators organize its numeric expressions to create anti-progress effects.

In all the times, we see the work of legitimate missionaries of the good harmed by ignorance, which establishes disturbances and scarecrows for the popular mass.

Though, for the community of the Gospel's apprentices, in any environment of faith, the pattern of Jesus shines sovereign.

Seeing the multitude, the Master climbed a hill and began to teach...

It is imperative to commit our energies to the service of education. Let us help people to think, grow and improve themselves.

Helping everyone, so that all are benefited and elevated, as much as we desire amelioration and

prosperity for ourselves, constitutes for us the real and indisputable happiness.

To the east and west, to the north and south of our individuality, thousands of creatures move, in a position inferior to ours.

Let us open our arms and hearts, and let us radiate understanding, fraternity, and sympathy, helping them without conditions.

When the Christian pronounces the sacred words "Our Father", he is not only recognizing the Fatherhood of God, but also accepting as his family the whole Humanity.

105

You Are the Light

"You are the light of the world."

Jesus (Matthew 5:14)

When the Christ named His disciples the light of the world, He marked them with a tremendous responsibility on Earth.

The mission of the light is to clear paths, sweep shadows and save lives; such mission invariably develops at the expense of the fuel, which serves as its base.

The flame of the lamp uses the oil of the wick.

The electrical lighting consumes the energy of the power plant.

The light, whether of the Sun or the candlestick, is always a message of safety and discernment, comfort and joy, appeasing those around whom it shines.

If, therefore, we convince ourselves of Christ's lesson, interested in following Him, it is indispensable to our willingness to donate our forces in the incessant activity for the good, in order that the Good News shines on the path of redemption for all.

A Christian without the spirit of sacrifice is a dead lamp in the sanctuary of the Gospel.

Let us seek the Lord, offering to others the best of ourselves.

Let us follow Him, helping others without restrictions. Let us not stop on conflicts or questionings without advantage.

"You are the light of the world" - exhorted us the Master - and the light does not argue, but it clarifies and relieves, assists and illuminates.

106

Let Us Serve the Good

"The light shines in the darkness..."

John 1:5

Do not feel distressed about being apparently alone in performing good works.

Jesus was alone before He gathered His companions to the apostolic service. Solitary, at the head of the vast world, in the manner of a farmer, without work tools, before the immense jungle...

Though, it constituted no reason to impede the Christianity to arise as the living temple of love, still under construction on Earth, for human happiness.

Although knowing the power of the truth that He carried with Himself, Jesus did not prevail of His superiority to humiliate or hurt.

Above all concerns, He invariably sought the right, through all situations and in all creatures. He did not waste time with improper reproaches, nor did He get involved in useless polemics.

He instituted the saving reign, of which He became a messenger, serving and loving, always helping and basing each teaching upon His own exemplification.

Let us continue, then, in our regenerative march forward, even when feeling alone.

Let us serve the good, above all; nevertheless, let us avoid discussions and turbulences, in which evil can expand.

The shadow flees in the face of the glow of light.

Let us not forget that thousands of kilometers of darkness, in the bosom of the night, cannot extinguish a few millimeters of the bright flame of a candle; though, a slight gust of wind suffices to eliminate it.

107

Let Us Renew Ourselves Daily

"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Paul (Romans 12:2)

There is no point in the apparent transformation of our personality in external aspects.

More titles, more financial resources, more possibilities for comfort and a higher social consideration can be a simple increase in responsibility.

Let us renew ourselves inwardly.

It is necessary to advance in the higher knowledge, even when the march costs us sweat and tears.

Accepting the problems of the world and overcoming them, by the force of our work and serenity, is the just formula to acquire discernment.

Pain and sacrifice, affliction and bitterness, are processes of sublimation that the Greater World offers us to expand our spiritual vision.

Material easiness tends to stagnate our mind when we do not know how to overcome the fascinating perils of earthly advantage.

Let us renew our souls, day after day, by studying the lessons of those who are at the forefront of the progress and living our existence under the inspiration of the unceasing service.

Let us devote ourselves to the construction of a balanced life, wherever we are, but let us not forget that only by the execution of our duties, in the concretization of the good, will we reach the comprehension of life, and with it, the knowledge of the "the perfect will of God," about us.

108

A Little Bit of Yeast

"Do not you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?

Paul (1 Corinthians 5: 6)

No one lives alone.

Our soul is always a nucleus of influence for others. Our acts have positive language.

Our words, act from a distance.

We find ourselves magnetically associated with each other.

Actions and reactions characterize our march.

It is, therefore, necessary to know what kind of forces we project on those who surround us.

Our conduct is an open book.

How many of our insignificant gestures come to the neighbor, generating unexpected resolutions!

How many sentences, seemingly inexpressive, emitted by our mouth, establish great events!

Every day we make suggestions for good or evil...

Leaders drag their followers.

Servants inspire administrators.

What path is our attitude indicating?

A little yeast leavens the whole dough.

We do not have resources to analyze the extent of our influence, but we can examine its essential quality.

So, beware of the invisible food which you provide to the lives that surround you.

Our fate unfolds in the currents of ebb and flow. The forces that today proceed from our activity will return to the center of our activity tomorrow.

109

As Christ

"For He knew what was in each person."

John 2:25

Yes, Jesus did not ignore what existed in man, but He has never been negatively impressed.

He knew that usury lived in Zacchaeus, yet, he brought him from avariciousness to benevolence.

He was aware that Magdalene was possessed by geniuses of evil; even so, He renewed her to the pure love.

He recognized the intellectual vanity of Nicodemus, but He gave him new conceptions of the greatness and excellence of life.

He identified the weakness of Simon Peter; however, little by little, He instilled in the disciple's heart, the spiritual fortress that would make him the support for the Early Christianity.

He saw Thomas' doubts and though, did not forsake him.

He knew the shadow that dwelled in Judas, without denying him the cult of affection.

Jesus was concerned, above all, about providing each soul with a wider vision of life and sharing with each spirit, efficient resources of renewal for the good.

Do not condemn, then, the neighbor, when you note his inferiority and imperfection.

Like the Christ, help as much as you can.

The Divine Friend knows what is in us...

He does not ignore our heavy and dark heritage of the past, in the difficulties of our present, full of hesitations and errors; nevertheless, this is no reason for Him to cease extending His loving hands.

110

Let Us Watch and Pray

"Watch and pray so that you will not fail in temptation."

Jesus (Matthew, 26:41)

The most terrible temptations arise from the shadowy background of our individuality, just as the most intense sludge, capable of blackening the lake, comes from its own bosom.

We are reborn on Earth, with the unbalanced forces of our past, for the readjustment tasks.

At the roots of our tendencies, we find the most vivid suggestions of inferiority.

In the intimate relationships with our relatives, we are surprised by the strongest reasons for discord and squabbling.

In ourselves, we can exercise patience and good cheer, faith, and humility.

In contact with the closest affections, we have copious material of learning, to settle in our lives the values of goodwill and forgiveness, of pure fraternity and unceasing good.

Do not propose yourself, thus, to cross the world, without temptations.

They are born with you, proceed from you and will feed on you, when you do not fight them, determinedly; just like the farmer always willing to cooperate with the earth from which he must extract the good seeds.

Walking from the cradle to the grave under the hammer of temptation is natural.

Confronting obstacles, undergoing ordeals, tolerating gratuitous antipathies and crossing storms of tears are logical vicissitudes of the human experience.

In spite of this, let us remember the Christ's teaching: watching and praying, in order not to succumb to temptations, for it is better to cry with the goads of resistance than to smile with the narcotics of the fall.

111

Let Us Strengthen Ourselves

"Be strong in the Lord."

Paul (Ephesians 6:10)

There are many people who think they are strong...

In the land ownership, whose owner changes.

In the financial resources, which arise and flee.

In the physical beauty, that shines and passes.

In important relatives, who change themselves.

In the culture of intelligence, which is often mistaken.

In popularity, which leads to delusion.

In political power, which the time undoes.

In the oasis of exclusivist happiness, that the storm destroys.

Yes, there are a lot of people who believe to win today to end up defeated tomorrow.

However, only the conscience built up in faith, by the duties well fulfilled before the Eternal Laws, can sustain itself, invulnerable, on its own domain.

Only those who can sacrifice themselves for love, find the incorruptible security.

Let us strengthen ourselves, then, in the Lord, and continue, forwards, with an upright soul, in the execution of the task which we have been entrusted by the Divine Master.

112

What Shall I Do?

"What shall I do, Lord?"

Paul (Acts 22:10)

Thousands of companions approach the Gospel for inveterate devotion to self-indulgence. How will I master? Some people ask. How will I rest? - Others question.

And the supplications multiply; strange, reprehensible, incomprehensible...

There are those who ask for cheap comfort in the flesh, and those who claim for improper affections; some who yearn for unanswerable business, and the ones who demand resources to hinder the service of peace and right.

The question of the Apostle Paul, at the very moment when he is graced by the Divine Presence, is a standard for all apprentices and followers of the Good News.

The great worker of the Revelation does not ask for a transfer from the Earth to the Heaven, neither does he make suggestions of favoritism to his personal circle.

He does not ask for an exemption from responsibility, nor does he avoid the duty to fight.

What will I do? Said Paul to Jesus, understanding the imposition of the effort that was up to him.

Thus, the Master determines that the companion rises to the sowing of light and love, through his own sacrifice.

If you have been called to faith, do not turn to the Divine Adviser pleading for privileges and benefits that justify your permanence in spiritual stagnation.

Let us seek with the Lord the service that His Infinite Goodness indicates for us, and we will move forwards, victorious, towards the sublime renewal.

113

Let Us Seek the Best

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye?"

Jesus (Matthew 7:3)

The question of the Master, still now, is clear and timely.

Often, the man who brings the speck of sawdust in the eye also brings with him the bleeding feet. After a laborious journey in the virtues, he reveals his calloused hands at work, and his heart is wounded by a thousand blows on the part of the ignorance and inexperience.

It is indispensable to habituate the sight in the search for the best, in order that we are not deceived by the malice that is peculiar to us.

Usually, for the bad habit of looking for trifles, we lose the opportunity of the great achievements.

Valuable and respectable collaborators are relegated to the margins by our recklessness, in many circumstances, simply because they carry slight defects or insignificant shadows of the past, which the movement in service could heal or dissipate.

Nodules in the wood do not impede the work of the artisan, and certain cobbled stretches of the field cannot frustrate the effort of the farmer in the production of the noble seed.

Let us take with us the brother with goodwill in the planting of the good, forgetting the unimportant details that surround his life.

What would become of us if Jesus did not excuse us for the mistakes and defections of each day?

So, if we hope to attain our improvement, relying on the infinite benevolence of the Lord, why should we deny our neighbor the confidence in the future?

Let us consecrate ourselves to the task that the Lord has indicated for us in the building of the good and light, and let us be certain that by doing so, the speck of sawdust that troubles the neighbor's eye, as well as the plank that obscures ours, will spontaneously dissolve, restituting to us the happiness and balance through incessant renewal.

114

Put Your Sword Away

"Put your sword away..."

Jesus (John 18:11)

War has always been the terror of the nations.

Hurricane of unconsciousness, it opens the door to all monsters of iniquity, wherever it manifests itself.

What civilization raises, at the price of laborious centuries of sweat, it destroys with the fury of a few days.

In the face of war, it emerges the destruction and also the bloodshed that compel people to cruelty and barbarity, through which bitter days of suffering and regeneration arise for the collectivities that accepted its madness.

It is the same within us, when we conflict with the neighbor.

As we sustain strife with our brothers, a destructive storm of feelings leaves our heart out of control. Higher ideals and sublime aspirations, long cherished by our spirit, constructions of the present for the future, and plantations of light and love on the ground of our souls suffer crumbling and disintegration.

It is all because imbalance and violence make us tremble and fall into vibrations of absolute selfishness, which we had relegated to the rear of evolution.

After that, we often have to go through grievous existences of atonement, in order to correct the breaches that demean our ship of the destiny, in brief moments of insanity...

In our Christian learning, let us remember the word of the Lord:

"Put your sword away..."

As we feed war with others, we lose ourselves in outer darkness, forgetting the good fight that we have to keep inside ourselves.

Let us make peace with those around us, fighting against the shadows that still disturb our existence so that the reign of light is made in us.

With a lance ready for battle we will never conquer the good we desire.

The Master's cross is shaped like a sword with a blade facing low.

Let us remember, therefore, that when He sacrificed Himself upon a symbolic sword, properly sheathed, it was when Jesus gave the man the blessing of peace, with happiness and renewal.

115

Let Us Keep Loyalty

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

Paul (2 Corinthians 4:2)

Let us live each day doing the best we can.

If you manage, be fair in the distribution of work.

If you legislate, be faithful to the good of all.

If you spread the gifts of faith, do not neglect the souls that surround you.

If you teach, be clear in the lesson.

If you devote yourself to the art, do not corrupt the divine inspiration.

If you heal, do not despise the sick.

If you build, be careful to guarantee security.

If you plow the soil, do it with joy.

If you cooperate in public cleansing, embrace in the hygiene your priesthood.

If you have built a home, sublimate it to the blessings of love and light, even though it costs you distress and sacrifice.

Do not worry about unexpected changes, neither be impressed with the apparent victory of those who take care of multiple interests, excepting those that refer to you.

Remember the watchful eye of the Divine Providence that watches every step we take.

Remember that you live, in the place you do, due to the initiative of the Greater Power that supervises our destinies and let us keep loyal to the obligations that surround us.

Hence, acting ceaselessly in the expansion of good, in the field of activities that life determined us to perform, let us wait for new decisions of the Law about us, because the very Law will raise us upright and sublimate our duties at the opportune moment.

116

Go and Teach

"Go you therefore, and teach…"

Jesus (Matthew 28:19)

As we study the Lord's recommendation to the disciples –

"Go and teach" -, it is fair not to forget that Jesus came and taught.

He came from Heavenly Height and taught the way of spiritual elevation to those who lay mired in the earthly shadow.

The Christ could have sent the lesson by faithful emissaries... He could have spoken brilliantly clarifying how to do...

He preferred, though, to come to the men and live with them, in order to teach with safety and advantage, how one should live on the course of perfection.

For this, first of all, He came humble and simple in the Manger; He honored the work and the study in the home and, in the public activity, He was the providential Brother of all, supporting each one, in accordance with his needs.

With unarguable correctness, He is called the Divine Master. Not because He owned a cathedra of gold...

Not because He had the best library in the world...

Neither because He simply exalted the right and blameless word...

Nor because He rose to the throne of cultural superiority, imposing obligations on the listeners...

But because He uplifted His own heart until the fraternal love and, teaching, He became the Benefactor of all those who received the sublime teachings.

He spoke to us of the Eternal Father and revealed to us, with His sacrifice, the just way to seek Him.

Thus, if you propose to cooperate with the Gospel, remember that it is not enough to advise, speak and inform.

"Go and teach," in Christ's words, means "Go and exemplify, so that the others may learn how to do."

117

We Have What We Give

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Paul (Acts 20:35)

When someone refers to the gospel passage that considers the action of giving a higher bliss than receiving, almost all the apprentices of the Good News remember the word "money".

Undoubtedly, with respect to material goods, there is always more joy in helping, than in being helped; however, it is imperative not to forget the spiritual goods, which, radiated from us, increase the content and intensity of joy around our steps.

Whoever gives collects the happiness of seeing the multiplication of what he has given.

Offer kindness, and you will encourage the planting of fraternity.

Extend the blessing of forgiveness, and you will strengthen justice.

Manage goodness, and you will have the growth of confidence.

Give your good example, and you will guarantee the nobility of character.

The resources of Creation are distributed by the Creator with the creatures, so that, in permanent bestowal, they multiply infinitely.

You will be assisted by Heaven as you are assisting on Earth.

We have what we give. Do not forget, then, that you are the butler of the life in which you find yourself.

Give your neighbor something more than the money you can afford.

Give also your affective interest, your health, your joy and your time, and, in truth, you will enter into the possession of the sublime gifts of love, balance, happiness, and peace, today and tomorrow, in this world and in eternal life.

118

In Our Tasks

"…Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble."

Paul (Romans 12:16)

"… Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble."— recommends the apostle, wisely.

Many apprentices of the Gospel yearn for the great accomplishments from one day to another...

The crown of holiness...

The power of healing...

The glory of superior knowledge...

The edifications of wide reach…

However, craving alone is not enough for the achievement.

Everything, in the circles of Nature, obeys the spirit of a sequence.

The victorious tree in the harvest went through the condition of the fragile shrub.

The waterfall that moves powerful turbines is a set of water wires in the headwaters.

The project for building a noble house is imposing; though, it is indispensable the service of the pickax and the shovel, the brick and the stone so that art and comfort be expressed.

Let us embrace the humble duties with devotion to our ideal of progress and triumph.

No matter how arduous and simple our obligation may be, let us fulfill it with love.

The word of Paul is wise and fair, for, once climbing firmly the inferior tracks of the mount, we will easily conquer the top and, accepting with goodwill the little tasks, the great tasks will come spontaneously towards us.

119

Now Listen

"Now listen, you who say… tomorrow…"

James 4:13

Now is the decisive moment to do good. Tomorrow, probably...

-The friend will be gone.

-The difficulty will be greater.

-The disease will become more serious.

-The wound may be perhaps enlarged.

-The problem may seem more complicated.

-The opportunity to help will not be repeated.

The good seed planted now is a guarantee of valuable production in the future.

The useful word, pronounced without hesitation, will always be a light in the context that you live.

If you wish to be excused for any fault, come closer now to those whom you have hurt, and reveal your purpose of readjustment.

If you propose to help the companion, help him without delay, so that the blessing of your brotherly support responds to the needs of your brother with the desired efficiency.

Do not sleep on the possibility of doing your best.

Do not keep inoperative expectation, when you can contribute to joy and peace.

The belated gift tastes like gall.

"Now listen" - the Gospel tells us, in the apostolic word.

Delaying the good that we can accomplish is misusing time and stealing from the Lord.

120

This is How It Will Be

"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves, but not rich toward God."

Jesus (Luke 12:21)

You will keep countless titles of the possessions of earthly utilities, but if you do not master your own soul, all your wealth will be no more than a simple introduction to the madness.

You will multiply, around your feet, wonderful gardens of youthful joy; however, if you do not acquire the superior knowledge for tomorrow's route, your youth will be the noisy eve of the true oldness.

You will cover your chest with honorary medals, increasing the series of admirers who applaud you; nonetheless, if the light of a rightful conscience does not bathe your heart, you will resemble a safe of darkness, adorned from the outside and empty inside.

You will accumulate riches and accessories of comfort for your earthly home, giving it a dominant profile and lining it with artistic splendor; though, if you do not possess, in the intimacy of your home, the harmony that sustains the happiness of living, your domicile will be solely an adorned mausoleum.

You will collect gold and silver coins, in the shadow of which you will speak with authority and influence in the ears of your neighbor; nevertheless, if your possessions do not dilate in the form of relief and labor, encouragement, and education, for the benefit of the neighbor, you will be only a careless traveler, going towards dreadful disillusions.

You will grow horizontally, you will conquer power and fame, and your physical presence on Earth will be revered; despite this, if you do not bring with you the values of good, you will stand alongside the unhappy, in a careless march towards the ruins of disenchantment.

So it shall be with **"Whoever stores up things for themselves, but not rich toward God."**

121

Let Us Search for Light

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

Paul (2 Timothy 3:16)

Seek the idea for its own value.

When the common coin comes to your hands, you do not ask where it came from. You ignore whether it proceeds from the house of a just or an unjust man, if earlier, it was at the service of a saint or an evildoer.

Aware of its importance, you know how to conserve it or use it, with practical sense, because you have learned to perceive in it, the seal of authority that guides your human endeavor.

Money is a representation of the purchasing power of the temporal government, to which you submit, and therefore, you do not discuss the origin, respecting and taking advantage of it, commensurately with your possibilities.

On the same basis, the renewing and edifying ideas arise.

Why do we demand that they are subscribed, in their exposition, by our close relations, in order to produce the salutary effect, we expect in and around us?

Every consoling and instructive page is a gift from the Highest.

It does not matter if the thoughts embodied in it have come by means of the spirit of our earthly parents, our children in the flesh, our dear ones, or our companions. The essential is the advantage it can offer us.

The money with which you buy the bread of today may have passed yesterday by the hands of your worst adversary, but it is a blessing for the guarantee of your sustenance, due to the value that characterizes it.

So, also the message of any provenance, which leads us to the good or the truth is always valuable and holy in its foundations, for, using it in our soul and our experience, we can acquire the eternal talents of wisdom and love, once it is a savior resource born of the infinite mercy of our Heavenly Father.

Let us seek the light where it is, and the darkness will not reach us.

122

Let Us Understand Each Other

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves."

Peter (1 Peter 4:8)

There are no smaller or bigger tasks. All are important in their meaning.

One man will be respected by the laws he implants; another will be admired by the deeds he performs. But the legislator and the hero would not reach the evidence in which they stand out, without the humble work of the farmer who sows the field and the invisible effort of the sweeper, contributing to the public path hygiene.

Do not isolate yourselves, therefore, in the pride, with which you presume to be superior to the others.

The community is a set of service, generating the wealth of experience.

We must not forget that the harmony of this living machine depends on us. When we can distribute the stimulus of our understanding and collaboration with all, respecting the importance of our work and the excellence of the others' service, there will be a great renewal on the Earth, towards a perfect happiness.

For this, yet, it is necessary that we devote ourselves to reciprocal assistance, with ardent fraternal love...

Let us love our position in the social order, though simple or rudimentary, lending to the good, to the progress and education, our best forces.

We will be commensurately understood to our comprehension.

Let us look at our brother, in the effort he expends, and the brother will identify us in the tasks to which we dedicate ourselves.

Let us extend our arms to the beings that surround us and they will respond with the best they have.

The most precious capital of life is that of goodwill. Let us set it in motion and our existence will be enriched with blessings and joys, today and always, wherever we are.

123

Living in Peace

"Live in peace."

Paul (2 Corinthians 13:11)

Remain in peace.

It is likely that others fight you without reason, antagonizing the way that you live; nonetheless, you can advance in your route, without fighting anyone.

Nevertheless, in order to assure that tranquility baths your thoughts, it is necessary that compassion and goodness follow all your steps.

Assume with yourself the commitment to avoid exasperation.

Together with serenity, you can analyze every person and event, in the place and position to which they are related.

Observe, tenderly, those who seek you on the way...

All those who come, afflicted or desperate, choleric or disrespectful, bring sores or illusions. Prisoners of vanity or ignorance, they could not tolerate the light of the truth, and they yell, cranky...

Anoint yourself with piety and penetrate the recesses of their being, and you will identify in all of them, spiritual children who feel outraged or bruised.

Some accuse, others cry. Help them, while you can.

By pacifying their souls, you will harmonize your life even more.

Let us learn to comprehend each mind in its problem.

Remember that Nature, always divine in its foundations, respects the law of balance and keeps it without ceasing. Even when men show unbalance, in their open conflicts, the Earth is always firm and the Sun shines always.

Living anyway belongs to everyone but living at peace with oneself is a service of just a few.

124

Do Not Grow Weary

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Paul (Galatians 6:9)

When the chisel began to wound the marble block, the stone, in despair, cried out against its own destiny, but then, upon perceiving itself admired by others, incarnating one of the most beautiful artistic conceptions in the world, it praised the chisel, which had broken it before.

The caterpillar used to crawl with extreme difficulty, and, seeing the flowers touched with beauty and perfume, it revolted against its deformed body; yet, one day, the viscous mass in which it distressed, became the wings of a graceful and agile butterfly, and then it exalted the ugly body with which Nature had prepared her happy flight.

The red iron placed on the anvil startled and suffered, bitterly; though when it found itself playing important roles in the machines of the progress, it smiled gratefully at the fire which had purified and exalted it.

Thrown into the dark pit, the seed wept, tormented, and inquired as to why it was left to the extreme abandonment; however, seeing itself transformed into a bush, it advanced to the Sun and became the respected and generous tree, blessing the earth that had isolated it in its bosom.

Do not be weary of doing good. Who does not understand your goodwill today, tomorrow will praise your devotion and effort.

Never despair and help always.

Perseverance is the basis of victory.

Do not forget that you will reap, later, in your tillage of love and light, but you will only attain the divine harvest if you go forward, between the sweat and trust, without ever discouraging.

125

Richly

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly…"

Paul (Colossians 3:16)

You say you trust in the power of Christ, but if the day appears in colors opposing your expectation, you show a deplorable poverty of faith, in unconformity.

You claim to cultivate the love that the Master has bequeathed to us; however, if a companion manifests points of view different from yours, you demonstrate an enormous lack of understanding, trusting yourself to the displeasure and reproach.

You declare to accept the Gospel in its simplicity and purity; in spite of this, if the Lord asks you for a sacrifice, perfectly compatible with your possibilities, you exhibit an undeniable lack of cooperation, launching challenges and requesting redress.

You affirm that you seek the Will of the Celestial Benefactor; though, if your whims are not satisfied, you express regrettable misery of patience and hope, throwing your best thoughts to the marsh of disenchantment.

But, shall we kindle the light, abiding in the darkness? Will we bear witness to obedience by exalting the revolt? Will we teach serenity, with tendencies to the despair?

Shall we proclaim the glory of love, cultivating hatred?

The word of Christ does not invite us to march in weakness or in the lamentation, as if we were protected by ignorance.

According to the illuminated conception of Paul, the Good News must radiate from our life, dwelling in our soul, richly.

126

Let Us Help Always

"And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:29

The neighbor that we need to provide immediate assistance is always the person that is closest to us.

In short, he is, in every way, the creature that approaches our steps. As the Divine Law recommends that we love our neighbor as ourselves, let us prepare ourselves to help, infinitely...

If we have a family member on our path, let us favor him with our active cooperation.

If we are confronted by a hierarchical superior, let us exercise respect and goodwill towards him.

If a subordinate one calls for us, let us assist him with care and affection.

If an evildoer visits us, let us practice the fraternity, trying, without affectation, to open for him new directions toward the good.

If a patient asks us for help, let us have compassion for his position, whatever it is.

If some good individual searches for support in our words, let us encourage him to be better.

If a bad man seeks our influence, let us assist him, without fanfare, in order that he corrects himself.

If there is Christianity in our consciousness, the systematic cultivation of understanding and goodness has the force of law in our destinies.

A Christian without activity in the good works is a sick one of bad aspect, weighing on the economy of the collectivity.

In the Gospel, the neutral position means less effort.

With Jesus up close, acting intensively with Him; or with Jesus, distantly, slowing the advance of light. And we know that the Divine Master assisted and loved, fought for the light and resisted the shadow, until the cross. Thus, before the neighbor, who approaches your heart, every day, remember always that you are situated on Earth to learn and help.

127

Real Humanity

"... Behold the Man!"

Pilate (John 19:5)

As he introduced the Christ to the crowd, Pilate did not designate an earthly conqueror…

No banquet, no luxury. Neither applause nor flowers. Jesus was facing death.

He was ending a week of terrible flagellations.

Betrayed, He did not rebel.

Incarcerated, He exercised patience.

Humiliated, He did not retort.

Forgotten, He did not give shelter to the outrage.

Scoffed, He forgave.

Flogged, He forgot the offense.

Wronged, He did not defend himself.

Sentenced to martyrdom, He knew how to forgive.

Crucified, He would return to the coexistence of the same disciples and beneficiaries who had abandoned Him, to raise their hopes.

But when he showed Him before the people, Pilate did not say, "Behold the condemned man, behold the victim!"

He simply says, "Here is the Man!"

Apparently defeated, the Master appeared in full spiritual greatness, revealing the highest standard of human dignity.

Recalling, then, this passage, let us remember that solely on the moral lines of Christ will we be able to attain the Real Humanity.

128

Do Not Reject the Trust

"So, do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded."

Paul (Hebrews 10:35)

Do not cast away the trust that nourishes your heart.

Often, the apparent progress of the wicked ones discourages the fervor of feeble souls.

The faltering virtue recoils in the face of the addiction that seems victorious.

The frail believer feels tormented before the evildoer that stands out, with an aureole of laurels.

However, if we accept Jesus as our Divine Master, we must receive the world as our school.

The school reveals to us that the carnal pilgrimage is just a stage of the spirit in the immense field of life.

All centuries had domineering sovereigns.

Many were erected on pedestals of gold and power, at the price of blood and tears of their contemporaries.

Many won hate battles.

Others monopolized the bread.

Some led the political life.

Others acquired popular fear.

Nonetheless, all of them passed...

As terrestrial award for the laborious enterprises to which they consecrated themselves, they received only the pompous sepulcher, in which they stand out in the cold house of death.

Do not reject the faith, because the educative passage on the Earth imposes before your eyes afflictive pictures in the game of human conventions.

Remember immortality - Our divine heritage.

Wherever you go, lead your soul as a precious source of understanding and service!

Wherever you are, be generous, optimistic and diligent in the good!

The flesh is solely your garment.

Fight and perfect yourself, work and accomplish with Christ, and await, confidently, the future, in the certainty that the life of today awaits you, always righteous, tomorrow.

129

Keep Patience

"For you have need of patience, that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise."

Paul (Hebrews 10: 36)

You have been maintaining, for a long time, the tortured hope.

You would like that the world's answer to your desires would arise immediately, sheltering your heart; nevertheless, what peace would you enjoy in the apparent triumph of your dreams, without redeeming the debts that link you to the problem and difficulty?

How could we rest, faced with the demand of the creditor that requests us?

Will the delinquent relieve, earlier than the fair reparation of his foul?

You know that fate will materialize your plans of happiness; that the victory will crown, at last, your path of struggle, but you see yourself stuck in the circle of certain obligations.

The home converted into a forge of anguish...

The institution you serve, where you suffer the meddling of slander or the coup of cruelty...

The relative, to whom you dedicate respect and affection, and from whom you receive contempt and ingratitude...

The network of obstacles...

The conspiracy of the shadows...

The gratuitous persecution; the disease of the body; the imposition of the environment...

If the trials have imprisoned you in the constricting bars of the duty to fulfill, be patient and perform the obligations of your responsibility!

Do not renounce the renovation work!

Remember that the Will of God expresses itself, every hour, in the circumstances that surround us!

Let us pay our bills with the shadow, so that the Light may favor us!

In fact, we will reach the achievement of our projects of happiness; nonetheless, before that, it is necessary to pay off with patience the debts that we have incurred against the Law.

130

In the Intimate Sphere

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Peter (1Peter 4:10)

Life is a divine machine of which all beings are important parts, and the cooperation is the essential factor in the production of harmony and the good for all.

Nothing exists without meaning.

Nobody is useless.

Each creature received a certain talent from Divine Providence to serve in the world, and to receive from the world the salary of spiritual elevation.

Elderly or young, with or without body health, remember that it is necessary to move the gift that you have received from the Lord, to advance towards the Great Light.

No one is so poor that he cannot give anything of himself.

The paralytic himself, tied to the pallet of disease, can provide others patience and calm, in the form of peace and resignation.

Do not forget, therefore, the work that the Heaven has conferred to you, and avoid the preoccupation of interfering with the task of others, on the pretext of helping. Anyone who fulfills his own duty acts naturally for the benefit of the general equilibrium.

Often, as we believe we can do more correctly, the service of others, we are nothing more than agents of disharmony and turbulence.

Wherever we are, let us diligently and nobly fulfill the mission that life offers us.

Remember that the hours are the same for everyone, and the time is our inflexible and silent judge.

Yesterday, today and tomorrow are three phases of the unique path.

Every day is an occasion to sow and reap.

Let us, thus, fulfill the task assigned to us, and remember the word of the Gospel:

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”, so the grace of God enriches us with new graces.

131

In the Social Field

“But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

Mark 6:37

Before the weary and famished multitude, Jesus recommends to the apostles:

-"Give them something to eat."

The recommendation of the Master is important, b when He could really induce them to reproach the multitude, for the imprudence of an exhausting journey up the mountain, without the guarantee of provisions.

The Master wished, however, to record on the spirit of the apprentices, their consecration to the popular service.

He taught the cooperators of the Gospel, before the needy crowd, that it falls to them solely one duty: the disinterested fraternal assistance.

At that moment of the unforgettable teaching, hunger was naturally of the body, overcome by fatigue; but, still and always, we see the multitude wanting of help, dominated by the hunger for light and harmony, flogged by the invisible whips of discord and incomprehension.

The collaborators of Jesus are called, not to obscure them with pessimism; not to disturb them with indiscipline, or immobilize them with discouragement, but rather to nourish them with enlightenment and peace, moral strength and sublime hope.

If you find yourself before people, with the desire to help them, and if you propose yourself to contribute to the regeneration of the social field, do not waste your time in preaching rebellion and despair.

Keep the serenity and nourish the neighbor with your good example and good word.

Do not forget the Lord's recommendation:

"Give them something to eat."

132

Fearful

"So, I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground."

Matthew 25:25

In the parable of the talents, the negligent servant attributes to fear, the cause of failure in which he is unhappy.

He had received reduced possibilities of gain.

He had only one talent, and he had been afraid to fight to valorize it.

What happened to the careless server of the evangelical narrative happens every time and everywhere, once there are many people who claim to be poor in resources to pass through the world as they wished.

So, they take shelter into idleness, alleging the fear of action.

Fear of working.

Fear of serving.

Fear of making friends.

Fear of disappointing.

Fear of suffering.

Fear of incomprehension.

Fear of joy.

Fear of pain.

And they reach the end of the body, as "Mimosas", without the least effort to enrich the existence.

In life, they cling to the fear of death.

In death, they confess the fear of life.

In addition, under the pretext of being less favored by fate, they gradually become champions of uselessness and laziness.

If you have received, thus, a ruder task in the world, do not be afraid before others, and make of it your path of progress and renewal.

No matter how dark is the road to which you have been guided by circumstances, enrich it with the light of your effort in doing good, because fear did not serve as an acceptable justification in the reckoning between the servant and the Lord.

133

What do You Have?

"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. -"Seven," they replied.

Mark 8:5

When Jesus, at the head of the hungry crowd, asked about the possibilities of the disciples to assist it, He was certainly looking for a basis, in order to materialize the accurate help.

- "How many loaves do you have?"

The question denounces the need for some cooperation for the work of multiplication.

The evangelist Mark tells us that His companions showed Him seven buns, of which more than four thousand people were fed, remaining still an appreciable amount of provision.

Would the Master achieve so much, if He could not count on any recourse? The image compels us to meditate on the imposing aspect of our collaboration for the Celestial Benefactor to bring us happiness with His gifts of abundant life.

Will the Christ be able to build the sanctuary of happiness inside us and for us, if He cannot count on the foundations of goodwill in our hearts?

The most powerful power plant does not dispense with the use of the humble socket to illuminate a room.

Many await the miracle of the Lord's manifestation in order to satiate their hunger for peace and comfort, but the voice of the Master, on the mound, still resonate, unforgettable:

"What do you have?"

Infinite is the Goodness of the Lord; however, something must arise from our "self", in our favor.

On any ground of our accomplishments, for the higher life, let us present to Jesus some small crumbs of self-effort, and be convinced that the Lord will do the rest.

134

Let Us Fetch Balance

"Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."

John (1 John 2:6)

Though you should walk without fear, do not give yourself to recklessness, on the pretext of cultivating boldness.

If we devote ourselves to the Gospel, let us try to act according to the standards of the Divine Master, which never give place to temerity.

Jesus stresses the imperative of God's Kingdom, but He does not sacrifice the interests of others in hasty works.

He advises the sincerity of "yes, yes; no, no", but He does not give Himself to an incisive rudeness.

He highlights the moral ruins of the dogmatic pharisaism however, He worships the Law of Moses.

He resurrects Lazarus, but he does not intend to steal him, ultimately, from the death of the body.

Conscious of the power of which He is invested, He does not despise the political authority that should govern the needs of the people and teaches that people should "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

Arrested, and sentenced to the execution, He does not get lost in verbal defiance, although aware of the devotion with which He is followed by angelic entities.

Let us follow the Divine Model that we must not forget, performing our task with loyalty and courage; nonetheless, let us avoid unnecessary boldness that corresponds to dangerous thoughtlessness.

A fearful heart freezes the work. A daredevil heart sets fire to any service, destroying it. Hence, let us seek equilibrium with Jesus, and thus we will flee, naturally, from extremism, which is always the dark sign of disharmony or violence, the disturbance or death.

135

Forgive Always

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

Jesus (Matthew 6:14)

No matter how grave your neighbor's faults seem, do not waste your time on disapproval.

Condemning means crystallizing the darkness; it is opposing barriers to the service of light.

Seek in the victims of wickedness, something of good with which you can uplift them; just as life operates the miracle of greening on the seemingly dead trees.

First of all, remember how difficult it is to judge the decisions of creatures in experiences that diverge from ours!

How could we reflect, by appropriating the consciousness of others, and how could we feel the reality, using a heart that does not belong to us?

If the world today shouts alarmed, around your steps, be silent and wait...

The fair observation is impractical when the fog surrounds us.

Tomorrow, when the balance is restored, you will have enough clarity, so that the shadow does not alter your understanding.

Besides that, in problems of criticism, do not suppose that you are exempt from it.

Through noxious complacency towards yourself, you do not realize how many times you are less sympathetic to your companions!

If there are those who love our praiseworthy qualities, there are also those who highlight our scars and defects.

If there are people who help us, exalting our bright future, we can find also the ones who disturb us, constraining us to the revision of the dark past.

So, use kindness, and excuse incessantly.

The Good News teaches us that Love covers a multitude of sins.

Whoever forgives, forgetting evil and reviving good, receives from the Heavenly Father, in the sympathy and cooperation of the neighbor, his charter of liberation, qualifying himself to sublime renewals.

136

Let Us Live Calmly

"And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life."

Paul (1 Thessalonians 4:11)

Living in peace does not mean rotting in laziness.

There are people, whose body remains in dorsal decubitus, sheltered against the cold of difficulty by excellent blankets of economic ease, but mentally tortured by indefinable afflictions.

Living calmly, thus, is not a synonym of sleeping in stagnation.

The peace results from the quittance of our conscience towards life, and the work lies at the basis of such balance.

If we want health, it is necessary to fight for the body's harmony.

If we expect an abundant harvest, it is indispensable to plant with effort and to defend the crop with perseverance and care.

In order to guarantee the strength of our heart against the harassment of evil, it is imperative to know how to live in the serenity of the work faithful to the commitments assumed with the order and the good.

The progress of the wicked and the resting of the delinquents are stops of introduction to the door of the hell created by themselves.

Do not intend, therefore, to be quiet, without effort, struggle, work, or problems...

However, according to the apostle's warning, let us live calmly, fulfilling with courage, goodwill, and spirit of sacrifice, the edifying obligations that the world imposes on us each day, for our own good.

137

Let Us Keep on Doing Good

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Jesus (Matthew 25:40)

Not only by the words, which may symbolize bright leaves on a barren trunk.

Not just for the act of believing, that sometimes is nothing else than an inoperative ecstasy.

Not only for the titles, that on many occasions, constitute possibilities of access to abuses.

Not solely for the affirmations of faith, for, in many cases, the sound phrases are cries of the empty soul.

Let us not forget the verb "doing".

The connection with the Christ, the communion with the Divine Light, do not depend on the way of interpreting the Heaven's revelations.

In all the circumstances of His apostolate of love, Jesus aimed at attracting the attention of people, not to the form of religious thought, but to the human goodness.

The Good News did not promise the peace of the superior life to those who got calluses on their knees in incomprehensible penance, or who speculated on the nature of God. Neither did it promise it to people who discussed the things of Heaven in anticipation, or simply preached the eternal truths, but it exalted the sublime position of all who disseminated love in the name of the All-Merciful.

Jesus did not commit Himself to those who fought in His name; with those who humiliated others, on the pretext of glorifying Him, or with those who offered Him spectacular worship, in temples of gold and stone, but He affirmed that the slightest gesture of kindness, dispensed in His name, will always be considered, on the High, as an offering of love addressed to Him.

138

The Right Remedy

"Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other."

Paul (1 Thessalonians 4:9)

In its mission of Comforter, the Spiritism receives thousands of consultations coming from anxious souls, who beg for help and solution for varied problems.

Beside us, we see a father with little comprehension, who relies on cruel systems of education.

Here, it is a rebellious and ungrateful son, who flees from the beauty of understanding.

There, we have a friend fascinated by the appearances of the world, who abandons the commitments with the superior ideal.

Farther, we find a brother who refuses to give the fraternal cooperation.

Elsewhere, it is the wife who deserts home.

Still farther, it is the boss at work, insensitive and aggressive.

However, the remedy for the extinction of these old riddles of human relations has been indicated for centuries, in the teachings of the Good News.

Fraternal charity is the key to every door for a better understanding.

The disciple of the Gospel is someone who has been admitted to the presence of the Divine Master to serve.

The reward of such a worker, indeed, cannot be expected in the immediacy of the Earth.

How could we put the fruits on the green frond of the little sprout?

How could we get the masterpiece from the marble with the first stroke of the chisel?

He who really loves, in the name of Jesus, is sowing for the harvest in the Eternity.

Let us not seek orientation from others, on matters clearly solvable by our own effort.

We know there is no use in despairing or cursing...

Each spirit has its own route.

Thus, let us know how to walk on the path that life offers us, under the light of fraternal charity, today and always.

139

In the Work of Salvation

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul (2 Thessalonians 5:9)

Why are we not understood?

Why does loneliness invade our existence?

Why do difficulties surround us?

Why so much shade and so much roughness around our steps?

Hence, each question we make to ourselves is generally followed by despair and discontent, and we demand, under the deadly rays of cholera, the advantages of which we feel creditors.

We declare ourselves disappointed with our family, forsaken by our friends, misunderstood by our companions and even persecuted by our neighbor.

Mental intemperance leads the thorns of disenchantment and unapproachable organic imbalances into within us, transforming our existence into a rosary of lazy and sickly complaints.

Nevertheless, this occurs because the Lord has not designated us for the dark cliff of wrath, but for the work of salvation.

No one restores a service under the darkness of disorder.

No one helps wounding systematically for the simple pleasure of hurting.

No one will bless the daily tasks by cursing them at the same time.

Nobody can be simultaneously friend and executioner.

If you have news of the Gospel, in the world of your soul, prepare to help, infinitely...

The Earth is our school and our workshop. The Humanity is our family.

Each day is the blessed opportunity to learn and assist.

No matter how distressing your situation may be, help always, and you will be acting in the blessed service of salvation, to which the Lord has called us.

140

After Jesus

"The soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus."

Luke 23:26

The crowd that surrounded the Master on the supreme day was enormous. There, were the unrepentant mockers of the world, the champions of usury, scoffers, the ignorant, the weak spirits who recognized the superiority of Christ and feared to announce their own convictions, vacillating friends of the Gospel, the cowed witnesses, those benefited by the Divine Physician, who hid themselves, fearful, afraid of the sacrifices...

But a stranger, urged on by the people, accepted the wood, though constrained, and followed carrying it, after Jesus.

The lesson, however, would be bequeathed to the centuries of the future...

The world is still a huge Jerusalem, congregating creatures from different hues, but if you approach the Gospel, with sincerity and fervor, they place the cross upon your heart.

From then on, you will be compelled to the greatest demonstrations of renunciation; rare are those that will notice your fatigue and anguish, and despite your condition of a servant, with the same problems of the others, you will be required to exhibit humility and resistance, heroism and loyalty to the good.

Suffer and work, with the eyes turned towards the Divine Light.

From the high, it will descend to your spirit, the invisible torrents from the heavenly sources, and you will triumph bravely.

For the time being, the cross is still the sign of the faithful apprentices.

If you do not have the marks of testimony for the responsibility, the work, sacrifice, or inner improvement, it is possible that you love deeply the Master, but it is almost certain that you have not yet placed yourself together with Him, on the redemptive journey.

Let us, therefore, bless our cross and follow Him, fearlessly, seeking the victory of love and the eternal resurrection.

141

Renovate Always

"Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

Paul (2 Corinthians 4:16)

Each day has its lesson. Each experience leaves its corresponding value. Each problem obeys a certain goal.

There are creatures who, tortured by counterproductive fears, proclaim the unconformity which dominates them, in the face of illness or poverty, disillusionment or old age.

On the daily journey, there is no shortage of those who flee spectacularly from their duties, fetching, in the abandonment of the Good Fight and in the gradual agreement with death, the peace they cannot find.

Remember that civilizations succeed each other in the world, for thousands of years, and the men, no matter how happy and powerful, were confronted with the loss of the flesh vehicle, in order to settle moral accounts with eternity.

Even if the ordeal seems invincible to you, or the pain seems insurmountable, do not leave the position of a God's server, in which the Divine Providence has placed you.

Remember that tomorrow the day will return to your field of work.

Remain firm, in your service sector, educating your thinking in the acceptance of God's Will.

The disease can be a transient and salutary subpoena of the Celestial Justice.

The scarcity of earthly resources is always an educative obstacle.

The disappointment received with fervent courage is the Lord's selection work, in our favor.

The agedness of the physical body is an assimilation of wisdom for eternal happiness.

Be optimistic and diligent in the practice of goodness, between the trust and joy, for while the flesh-wrapper is corrupted little by little, the imperishable soul renews itself, from moment to moment, for immortal life.

142

Do Not Steal

"Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need."

Paul (Ephesians 4:28)

There are thefts of varied nature, never cataloged in the codes of justice of the Earth.

Theft of time from those who work.

Burglary of the neighbor's tranquility.

Depredation of others' trust.

Invasion in the interests of others.

Misappropriation, through thought.

Spoliation of joy and hope.

With the false keys of intrigue and slander, cruelty and dishonesty, unmerciful souls subtly penetrate in unprepared hearts, dilapidating them, in their most valuable spiritual patrimonies...

For this reason, the word of Paul is endowed with a sublime meaning:

"Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer."

If you have accepted the Gospel as a standard of elevation of your life, endeavor, above all, to occupy your hands in uplifting activities, so that you can be really helpful to those who need it.

In laziness lies the management of evil.

Whoever does something, has something to share.

Search for your service station; fulfill worthily your obligations of every day, and, by performing the duties entrusted to you by the Lord, you will cross the earthly path without stealing anyone.

143

Wake Up and Help

"Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Jesus (Matthew 8:22)

Jesus did not advise the apprentice, to let the corpses bury the corpses, but to let **"the dead bury their own dead."**

There is, indeed, a great difference.

The corpse is a lifeless flesh, while a dead person is someone who is absent from life.

There are many people who wander in the shadows of death, without dying.

Deserters of evolution, they close between the walls of their own mind, crystallized in selfishness or vanity, refusing to take part in the common experience.

They dive into tombs of gold, vice, bitterness, and illusion. If they are victimized by the temptation of wealth, they live in graves of money; if they are defeated by pernicious habits, they incarcerate themselves in shadow grids; if prostrated by discouragement, they sleep in the weeping of moral bankruptcy, and if tormented by the lies with which they surround themselves, they reside under the tombstones, hardly permeable, of fatal errors.

Learn to participate in the collective struggle.

Get out of yourself, each day, and try to feel the pain of the neighbor, the need of the companion, the anguish of your brother, and help as much as you can.

Do not be galvanized in the sphere of the "self".

Awaken and live with everyone, and for everyone, because nobody breathes solely for himself.

In any part of the Universe, we are users of the effort and sacrifice of millions of existences.

Let us give something of ourselves, in favor of others, for the so much that others do for us.

Let us, thus, remember the teaching of Christ.

If you find a corpse, give it the blessing of the grave, in the list of your good works, but when it comes to the spiritual journey, always

“Let the dead bury their own dead.”

144

Let Us Help the Mental Life

"Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him."

Matthew 4:25

The crowd continues to follow Jesus in the eagerness to meet Him, mobilizing all the resources within its reach.

It comes from all places, thirsty for comfort and revelation.

The interference of all who interpose between it and the Lord is useless, for, from century to century, the search and hope increasingly intensify.

So, let us not forget that any collaboration we can render to the people, as apprentices, will always be blessed.

No one needs to be a statesman or an administrator to help it grow.

Goodwill and cooperation represent the two main pillars in the building of human fraternity.

Contributing for the collectivity to learn to think of the good expansion is collaborating for the tuning of the terrestrial mind with the Divine Mind.

Ahead of us it is revealed a precious program in this regard.

Literacy.

Constructive reading.

Educative lecture.

The contagious example in the practice of simple goodness.

Divulgation of consoling and instructive pages.

The exercise of meditation.

May our primary task be the awakening of inner and personal values.

Let us help our brother to produce as much as he can of his best to the common progress, in the ideal, the plan and the activity in which he finds himself.

Directing the thought, clarifying and sublimating it, means guaranteeing the redemption of the world, unveiling new and rich horizons for ourselves.

Let us help the mental life of the multitude, and the people with us will find Jesus, more easily, for the victory of Eternal Life.

145

Watch out for the Dogs

"Watch out for those dogs."

Paul (Philippians 3:2)

We are an immense caravan of beings, on the evolutionary path, moving under the eyes of the Divine Shepherd, in demand of higher spheres.

In fact, if we follow this path, magnetized by the devotion of the Divine Conductor, we are also undeniably besieged by the dogs of ignorance, wickedness, and bad faith.

As he refers to dogs, Paul of Tarsus did not think of the friendly animal, a symbol of tenderness and fidelity, after domestication. It concerned to wild, impulsive and ferocious dogs.

In the human herd, we will always find creatures that personify them.

They are the systematic adversaries of the good.

They blacken worthy reputations.

They like slander.

They practice cruelty.

They take pleasure in the tyrannical imposition, peculiar to them.

They undo the elevated and sanctifying conception of life.

They destroy the service of well-meaning hearts.

They throw themselves, wildly, into the substance of constructive works, trying to consume or pervert them.

They vomit affronts and calumnies.

They shout, frivolous, that evil remains victorious, that the shadow has triumphed, that misery has consolidated its dominion on Earth, so disturbing the peace of the faithful and hard-working servants.

And when the microbe of hate or cholera excites their despair, then woe unto those who approach them, generous and confident!

It is for this gender of brothers that Paul asks us for the conjugation of the verb "watch out."

For them, poor prisoners of incomprehension and ignorance, there remain only the educative process, in which we can cooperate with love; nonetheless, we must recognize that this resource of domestication proceeds originally from God.

146

Let Us Cooperate

"Apart from me, you can do nothing."

Jesus (John 15:5)

The divine power of Christ, as a representative of God, remains latent in all creatures. All men have received from Him sacred talents, though many keep away from the religious field.

We refer here, however, to the cultivators of faith, who begin the laborious and long effort of discovering the sublime values that vibrate in themselves.

Many of them sigh for spectacular demonstrations of Jesus on their paths, and countless companions believe that those who are in the ministry of the word, on the altar, or in the tribune of several religious confessions, are the only who cooperate with the Lord.

It is urgent, nevertheless, to rectify this interpretive error.

Jesus is with us in all positions of life. We could accomplish nothing without the influx of His sovereign will.

The Master tells us clearly:

"I am the vine; you are the branches."

How could we produce something without the essential sap?

Effectively, shrewd apprentices may object that, on this criterion, we will also find those who practice evil, founded on the same bases. In reply, we will consider only that such unfortunate ones insert infernal cacti into the Divine Vine, on their own, paying a high price, before the Government of the Universe.

We refer to timid and hesitant, though well-intentioned companions, to conclude that in all human endeavors we may feel the presence of the Lord sanctifying the work we were assigned. So, we cannot forget the evangelical lesson which says that any effort in the good would be blessed, even if it were only to give a glass of pure water in His name.

The Master is not only in the service of those who teach the Divine Revelation, through the academic, instructive or consoling word. He accompanies the ones who administer the goods of the world, and those who obey the ordinances of the way, assisting the edification of the better future, in the material and spiritual organizations.

He remains beside the people who plough the ground of the Planet, supporting the structuration of the Improved Earth, as He inspires the missionaries of intelligence in the evolution of human rights.

Let us know how to cooperate, then, in the circles of service to which we have been called for the Christian work.

Do the part of the work entrusted to your hands in the best form within your reach.

Today, you may be mistaken, supposing to serve the earthly authorities; however, there will come the revealing minute in which you will recognize that you remain in the service of the Lord.

Unite yourself, therefore, to the Divine Artificer, in spirit and truth, because the fundamental problem of our peace is precisely the question of knowing whether we live in Him as much as He lives in us.

147

Take Refuge in Peace

"Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did

not even have a chance to eat."

Mark 6:31

The invitation of the Master for the disciples to seek a place apart, in order to rest the mind and heart in prayer, has been increasingly timely.

All the earthly roads are full of those who come and go, tormented by immediate interests, without finding time for the reception of spiritual nourishment.

Countless people cross the path, hungry for gold, and come back full of disillusions. Many others rush to adventures, thirsty for emotional novelty, and return with destructive boredom.

There have never been so many stone temples for manifestations of religiosity as now, and there has never been so great deal of disenchantment in the souls.

Labor legislation has been reducing manual activity as never before; nonetheless, at no time have arisen so anguishing worries as in the present. The machines of modern civilization have strikingly limited the human effort; in spite of that, afflictions culminate, nowadays, in wars of scientific devastation.

The technique of economic production advanced in all sectors, selecting cotton and wheat to intensify their crops, but for the eyes that contemplate the world landscape, it has never occurred among incarnates, such a big dearth of bread and clothing.

Social theories of solidarity have been improved, and there has never been so much discord among men.

As it happened on the days of Jesus' permanence in the Apostolate, most men remain in the going-and-coming of the paths, between the disoriented search and the false finding; between the frivolous youth and the disillusioned oldness, the neglected health and the disease without profit, and between the lost incarnation and the disincarnation in despair.

Oh, my friends, if you have effectively adopted the learning with the Divine Master, retire to a place apart, and cultivate the interests of your soul.

You might not find the outside garden to facilitate meditation, nor a place of nature, where you would rest from the material weariness; yet, penetrate the sanctuary, within yourself.

There are many feelings that have animated you for centuries, imitating, in your intimate, the ebb and flow of the crowd. They hurry from your heart to the brain and return from the brain to the heart, always the same, and unable to access the spiritual light.

It is the fanciful principles of peace and justice, of love and happiness that the plan of the flesh has imposed upon you.

In certain circumstances of transient experience, they may be useful; nevertheless, you should not live exclusively on their side. They would impose the infernal captivity over you.

Take refuge apart, in the temple within your soul, because solely there, will you find the true notions of peace and justice, real love, and happiness, to which the Lord has destined to you.

148

The Father's Heir

"But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe."

Paul (Hebrews 1:2)

Give to the respectable human powers what is theirs, by logical right of life, but do not forget to give the Lord what belongs to Him.

This conciliatory formula of the Gospel remains still palpitating with interest for the wellbeing of the world.

It is not appropriate to focus all our hopes and aspirations on mutable organizations of the material plane.

The inner man renews himself daily. For this reason, the science that responds to his complaints, in the passing minutes, is not the same science that served him, in the hours that have gone, and that in the future will be very different from that which assists him presently.

The politics of the past gave way to the politics of modern struggles. The bloodthirsty triumph of the strongest, at the times of unfettered savagery, was followed by the militaristic autocracy. The force ceded to the authority and this to the law. In the area of religious activities, the evolutionary effort has not been less.

In view of such realities, why do you fall in love, with so much vehemence, with fallible creatures, and transient programs?

Today's men, though venerable, are heirs of the men of yesterday, engaged in the gigantic struggle for the redemption of themselves.

They may promise wonderful reigns, of abundance and peace, freedom and harmony, but they cannot escape the service of correcting the errors they have inherited, not only from those who preceded them, in the field of collective commitments, but similarly from his own past experiences, in the tenebrous deviations of feeling.

The civilization of today is the successor of the failed civilizations.

The restored nations take advantage of the nations that have fallen apart.

Organizations that emerge now keep the inheritance of those that disappeared in the whirlpool of discord and tyranny.

As we examine the undisguised physiognomy of the truth, how could man hypertrophy the feeling, defining you, absolutely, by terrestrial institutions that lack, above all, your own spiritual assistance?

How can the homeless house shelter you from the storm? The plan of the skyscraper, cleverly traced on the parchment, is not yet the building that maintains legitimate security.

Therefore, there are no reasons to justify the anguish of Christ's apprentices, suffering from the political anxieties of the moment.

Such a state of soul is a simple product of a dangerous carelessness, for we all must know that fallible man cannot build infallible works, and it is up to us, partisans of the Master, the position of sincere workers, called to serve and cooperate with the patient, and long, but definitive and eternal work, of the one to whom the Father:

"**Appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe."**

149

In Worship of Prayer

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 4:31

We all cast around us, creative or destructive, pleasant or unpleasant forces to the personal circle in which we move.

The tree reaches us with the subtle matter of its own emanations. The spider breathes in the center of its webs.

The bee travels intensively, but it does not rest, unless in the compartments of the beehive.

So also lives the man, within the mental creations he gives origin.

Our thoughts are walls in which we are enclosed, or wings with which we progress in the ascension.

As you think, you will live. Our intimate life - our place.

In order that we do not disturb the laws of the Universe, Nature only bestows us the blessings of life in accordance with our conceptions.

Retire to some place, and you will see the limit of everything that surrounds you. Expand yourself, and you will find the infinite of everything that exists.

For us to rise, with all the elements of our orbit, we do not know another resource besides prayer, which asks for light, love, and truth. The prayer, translating a fiery aspiration of spiritual ascent, through the knowledge and virtue, is the force that illuminates the ideal and sanctifies the work.

In the Acts, we find a passage in which, when the apostles prayed, it trembled the place where they were, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit: their yearning for fraternity became illuminated, their minds were aggrandized, congregated in higher purposes, and the energy of sanctification filled their spirits with joy.

Do not forget, then, that the habit of prayer is a decisive march. Prayer will renew you for the work of the Lord, day by day, without your noticing it.

150

The Prayer of the Righteous

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

James 5:16

Considering the waves of desire, in their vital force, every impulse and longings constitute also prayers departing from Nature.

The worm, which creeps with difficulty, at the bottom is begging resources of an easier locomotion.

The wolf, caressing the cub, in its innermost being remains imploring lessons of love that modify its wild expression.

The primitive man, worshiping the thunder, in the recesses of his soul, asks explanations of the Divinity, in order to educate his impulses of faith.

All the needs of the world, translated into the effort of the living beings, mean supplications of the creatures to the Creator and Father.

Hence, if the desire of the good man is a prayer, the purpose of the bad or unbalanced man is also a supplication. Even here, nonetheless, we have the law of specific density.

Throw a stone at the neighbor, and the projectile will be immediately attracted to the floor.

Drop a few drops of perfume on your brother's skin, and the aroma will spread in the atmosphere.

Release the snake, and it will search for a burrow.

Free a swallow and it will fetch the height.

Minerals, vegetables, animals and human souls usually request, and the Divine Providence, through Nature, always responds. There are long-term solutions, and answers that take centuries to come from the Heavens to the Earth. Yet, among all the prayers that rise to the Heaven, the apostle highlights that of the just man, as being involved with intense power.

That is because the righteous conscience, in the adaptation to the principles of the Law, has already conquered friendships and numerous intercessions.

He who gathers friends accumulates love. Whoever gathers love accumulates power.

So, learn to act with justice and goodness, and your prayers will rise without obstacles, supported by the vehicles of sympathy and gratitude; for the just, in truth, wherever he is, is always a cooperator of God.

151

Slander

"Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against the brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it."

James 4:11

Not all hours are suited to the path of tenderness in the sphere of loyal conversations.

The talk of clarification sometimes calls for serene energy, in affirmatives without indecision; nevertheless, it is indispensable a great care concerning subsequent comments.

The slander awaits the sincerity to darken its waters and render unusable its efforts.

Evil does not deserve the crown of serious remarks. Attributing a great importance to it in verbal activities brings the expansion of its sphere of action. For this reason, James' advice is involved in sanctified wisdom.

When the problem of difficult solution arises, between one and another apprentice, it is reasonable to seek the companionship of the Master and resolve it in the clarity of His light. They should never place themselves in the shadow, far from each other, for malicious remarks on the situation, aggravating the pain of the open wounds.

"Speaking evil", in the legitimate meaning, means paying homage to the inferior instincts and renouncing the title of God's cooperator, in order to be a critic of His works. As we have seen, slander is a subtle poison that can lead the disciple to immense blunders.

Whoever sips such poison is, above all, a servant of the silliness, but we also know that many of these fools are a step away from great intimate misfortunes.

152

Come!

And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come.

Revelation 22:17

The Earth is the great school of souls, in which students of all ages are educated.

If you have attained the level of the great experiences, do not be uneasy in the face of the ceaseless extension of work.

Do not see enemies in the brothers whose understanding is still imperfect. Many of them have not yet left the spiritual kindergarten.

Always respond with the good for evil, with the truth to the lie, and love for the indifference.

The inexperience and ignorance of the hearts that are beginning the journey, frequently make a great uproar around the spirit that searches for itself.

Thus, you will often suffer affliction and discouragement. Do not be disturbed, though.

If the illusions and playthings of the majority do not satisfy you anymore, it is because maturity tilts you to broader horizons.

Remember that only Jesus is wise and strong enough to calm you down.

Hear His divine call, formulated in the last words of His Testament of Love: - **"Come!"**

No one can stop you from accessing the source of infinite light.

The Master is the Eternal Friend who breaks our handcuffs and opens renewing doors for us...

However, it is necessary to know how to want. The Lord will never do us violence.

Do you suffer? Are you weary? Do you stumble under the burdens of the world? Come!

Jesus keeps open arms for you.

Come and see Him still today!

It is true that you have always attained opportunities of service, that the Master has always been dedicated and merciful towards you, but do not forget that circumstances change with the hours and that not every day is equal.

153

Let Us Hear

"And immediately he called them." Mark 1:20

In some circles of Christianity, such a passage, alluding to the meeting of the Lord with the disciples, is interpreted simply as an appeal of the Christ to the religious ministry.

Nonetheless, we can give it a broader meaning.

In each situation of the way, it is possible to register the celestial calling.

In the familiar temple, where difficult problems arise... Before the unknown companion, who asks for cooperation...

In the face of the adversary, who expects understanding and tolerance...

Beside the sick, who waits for care and assistance... Before the ignorant, who calls for help and teaching...

Together with the child, who asks for kindness and comprehension...

Wherever we go, Jesus, the Silent Master, calls us to witness the lesson we learn.

In the smallest experiences, at work or at leisure, at home or on the streets, behold, He invites us to an unceasing practice of goodness.

In this sense, the disciple of the Gospel finds in the world the sanctuary of his faith, and in Humanity his own family.

Observing, therefore, the Christian norm, as inspiration for all the daily toils, let us hear the word of the Lord in every angle of the path, striving to follow Him with invariable fidelity, today and always.

154

None of Us Lives for Ourselves Alone

"For none of us lives for ourselves alone."

Paul (Romans 14:7)

The tree that you plant, will produce not only to nourish you but to attend the needs of many.

The light you light up will illuminate the way not only to your feet but equally for the travelers who go on your side.

Just as the thread of water influences the earth where it passes, your decisions inspire the decisions of others. Thousands of eyes watch your steps, thousands of ears listen to your voice, and thousands of hearts receive your stimuli for good or for bad.

"None of us lives for ourselves alone..." - says the Divine Message.

Whether we like it or not, the Law requires that our existence belongs to the existences that surround us. We live for our families, our friends, our ideals.

Even the exclusivist miser, who judges himself alone, lives for the gold or for the utilities, that he will restitute to other superior or inferior lives, for which death will take his treasure.

Understanding such reality, observe your own path. By feeling, you think.

By thinking, you accomplish.

All that constitutes your works, through intentions, words, and acts, will represent the influence of your soul, aiding you in the liberation for the glory of the light, or aggravating your captivity to suffering in the shadows.

Thus, watch your inner world, and do all the good that you can, even today, because, according to the wise conception of the Apostle Paul, **"Nobody lives unto himself."**

155

Let Us Learn to Thank

"In everything give thanks."

Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Let us be grateful for the gifts that the Lord grants us each day:

The breadth of life;

The abundant air;

The grace of locomotion; The faculty of reasoning; The fulguration of the idea; The joy of seeing;

The pleasure of listening; The treasure of the word; The privilege of working; The gift of learning;

The table that serves us;

The bread that nourishes us; The clothing that dresses us;

The unknown hands that intertwine in the effort to supply us with the meal and the warm clothing;

The anonymous benefactors, who transmit to us the wealth of knowledge;

The friend's conversation; The warmth of home;

The sweet duty of the family;

The contentment of building for the future;

The renewal of one's own forces...

Many people are expecting spectacular events of "worldly good fortune", to express gratitude to Heaven.

The Christian, however, knows that the blessings of Divine Providence enrich our simplest angles of every hour, in the space of our experiences.

There is nothing insignificant on the road we travel.

All of Heavenly Father's concessions are precious in the field of our lives.

By employing, therefore, the patrimony that the Lord lends us, in the unceasing work for the good, let us learn to thank.

156

Relatives

"Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Paul (1Timothy 5:8)

Fortuity is not found in kinship ties.

Subtle principles of the Law operate in consanguineous bonds.

By the causes of the past, we are impelled to meet in the present, and it is indispensable to pay with joy the debts that magnetize us to some hearts so that we can solve our debts towards Humanity.

It is useless to flee from the creditors who breathe together with us, under the same roof, because time will await us relentlessly, constraining us to the settlement of all commitments.

We have companions with a sweet and uplifting voice in salvationist propaganda, who are real thunders of intolerance in the home atmosphere, accumulating unbalanced energies around their own tasks.

No doubt, the family group in the world is not always a flower garden. Sometimes it is a hawthorn of worry and anguish, demanding sacrifice from us. Nevertheless, although we need to be firm in the attitudes to temper our affectivity, we will never be able to heal the wounds of our private environment with the whip of violence or the plaster of negligence.

According to the Apostle's warning, if we fail to care for our own family, we will be denying the faith.

Relatives are works of love that the Compassionate Father has granted us to accomplish. Let us help them, through cooperation and affection; meeting the purposes of the true fraternity.

Only by training the patience and understanding, tolerance and goodness, in the narrow beach of home, will we be able to serve with victory, in the high seas of great experiences.

157

Children

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones ..."

Jesus (Matthew 18:10)

When Jesus recommended that we do not despise the little ones, He did not expect from us only providential measures allusive to bread and clothing.

It does not suffice to feed tiny hungry mouths or cover small frozen bodies. It is imperative the presence of the moral shelter to ensure to the renascent spirit the work environment, necessary for its sublimation.

Many parents guarantee the material comfort for their children but relegate their soul to lamentable abandonment.

The idleness on the street produces delinquents that end up in jail or in the hospice, but the spiritual relaxation in the domestic redoubt generates social demons of wickedness and madness. On many occasions, backed by money or titles, they cross wide swathes of the century, spreading misery and suffering, shadow and ruin, with deplorable impunity at the head of earthly justice.

Hence, do not despise the child, delivering it to the impulses of brutalized nature. Let us remember that we are all in the process of education and re-education, before the Divine Master.

The meal dish is important in the development of the creature; however, we cannot forget that **"Man shall not live on bread alone".**

Let us remember the spiritual nourishment of the children, through our attitudes and examples, warnings and corrections, in a timely manner, once forsaking the child morally, in the tasks of today, will mean condemning it to the contempt of itself, in the services of which it will be responsible tomorrow.

158

In the Absence of Love

"But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going because the darkness has blinded them."

John (1 John 2:11)

If you do not know how to cultivate true fraternity, you will be fatally attacked by pessimism, as much as the dry earth will suffer the accumulation of dust.

Everything annoys the one who takes shelter in intransigence.

The companions who escape the tasks of love are deeply sad, by the bile of intolerance with which they feed themselves.

When invited to the team effort, they say that men breathe in moral bankruptcy.

Brought to the practice of faith, they see, everywhere, wickedness and disillusion.

Called to exercise the charity, they presume to find probable enemies in the brothers of suffering, and they move away, cranky.

Taken to this or that manifestation of contentment, they recede, disenchanted, believing to surprise viciousness and mud in the smallest expressions of festive beauty.

They walk in the world amid bitterness and mistrust.

There is no affection enough for them. They exploit emotionally people, where they go, crying, complaining, moaning...

They have no right course. They declare themselves expelled from society and family.

All this, because, as they are unable to love one another, they journey on the Earth, under the heavy fog of selfishness, which holds them restricted to the narrow circle of their necessities, without any expression of respect for the others' needs.

They say they are misunderstood because they do not want to understand.

Absent from love, they dry up the machine of life, losing the spiritual sight.

Impervious to the good, they become representatives of evil.

If pessimism begins to take over your spirit, retire to pray to ask the Lord to multiply your strength in the resistance, before the attack of darkness.

Let us learn to live with everyone, by tolerating and helping, in order to be tolerated and helped, and love will make us live, useful and optimistic, in the luminous environment in which struggle and work are blessings of hope.

159

In the Presence of Love

"Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble."

John (1 John 2:10)

Those who love the neighbor are able, above all, to comprehend, and he who comprehends knows how to free eyes and ears from the poisonous boo of scandal, in order to help, rather than accusing or harming.

It is necessary to have the heart in the light of true fraternity, in order to recognize that we are all brothers of each other, children of only one Father.

As we linger in the dark phase of the exclusive attachment to ourselves, we are imprisoned to the selfishness, and we demand that the others love us. On this unfortunate step, we are unable to want anyone but ourselves, seeing our brothers as instruments of our satisfaction.

Nevertheless, if we really love our companions of journey, the landscape of life changes, since the clarity of love will bathe our sight.

Feel Love since just as the mud never offends the light, the offense will no longer reach you. You will know that misery is the fruit of ignorance, and you will help the victim of evil, finding in him your own brother, needy of support and understanding.

You will learn to listen without anger, even if the crime seeks your ears, and you will cultivate aid for

your adversary, even when you see yourself torn apart. It is because the forgiveness with absolute forgetfulness of the blows received, will arise spontaneously in your spirit; just as tolerance arises natural in the fountain, which welcomes in its own breast the stones that are thrown against it.

Feel the Love, and you will comprehend.

Understand and serve more and more each day, for then you will remain under the glory of the light, inaccessible to any incursion of darkness.

160

In the Common Struggle

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Paul (Galatians 6:7)

You do not have to die in the flesh to know the law of compensation.

Let us examine the common struggle.

The man who lives indifferently to his neighbor's pain, receives from the neighbor the indifference to his own suffering.

Let us get away from the social interaction, and the depressing loneliness will be the response from the world for us.

If we apply severity toward others, we will be judged by the others with rigor and harshness.

If we practice hostility and aversion in society or in the family, among relatives and neighbors, we will only receive back dislike and distrust.

If we insult our task with laziness, our task will relegate us to disability.

A gesture of affection towards a stranger on the public thoroughfare will grant us the fraternal support of the anonymous groups that surround us.

Little sowings of kindness bring forth blessed sources of joy. The work well lived, produces the treasure of competence.

Attitudes of comprehension and kindness establish solidarity and respect beside us.

Optimism and hope, the nobility of character and pure intentions, attract precious service opportunities in our favor.

Each day is a time to sow. Every day is a time to reap.

It is not necessary to cross the shadow of the tomb to find justice, face to face. In the principles of cause and effect, we find ourselves ceaselessly under its guidance, at every moment of our life.

161

In the Common Effort

"Do not you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?"

Paul (2 Corinthians 5:6)

Let us not forget that our thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions constitute mental models for those who accompany us.

Each day, in our turn, we suffer the influence of others in the construction of our own destiny.

And, once we receive consonant with what we attract, and we reap according to our sowing, it is indispensable to know how to provide the best of us, so that the others grant us the best of themselves.

All your thoughts work on the minds that surround you.

All your words generate impulses on those who hear you.

All your written sentences generate images on those that read you.

All your acts are living models, influencing those around you.

No matter how hard you try to isolate yourself, you will always be a living piece in the machine of existence.

The wheels that land on the floor ensure the comfort and safety of the vehicle.

We are a team of workers, acting in perfect interdependence. From the quality of our effort, the success or the failure of the whole is born.

Our life, in any sector of the striving, is a big molding workshop.

We will enslave ourselves to the captivity of the shadow or free ourselves for the glory of the light, in conformity with the living molds that our guidelines and actions establish.

Let us remember the righteousness and nobility in the most obscure gestures.

Let us remember the lesson of the Gospel:

“A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough”

Let us make of our own way a blessed wellspring of working and fraternity, assistance and hope, so that our Laborious Today be converted for us in a Divine Tomorrow.

162

Inside the Fight

"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one."

Jesus (John 17:15)

Do not ask for the removal of your pain.

Ask for forces to bear it, with serenity and heroism, so you do not lose the advantages of its contact.

Do not request the disappearance of the stones from your path.

Insist on the reception of thoughts that help you take advantage of the stones.

Do not demand the expulsion of the opponent.

Ask for resources to elevate yourself, so you can transform his feelings.

Do not beg for the extinction of difficulties. Seek ways to overcome them, by assimilating their lessons.

Nothing exists without a reason.

The Wisdom of the Lord leaves no room for uselessness.

Suffering has its precious function in the soul's plans, as much as the storm has its important role in the economy of physical nature.

The tree, from birth, grows and produces, overcoming resistances.

The body of the creature develops among dangers of varied species.

Let us accept our day of service, where and how determines the Wise Will of the Lord.

As He introduced the disciples to the Heavenly Father, the Master said:

"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one."

The Earth has its mission and its greatness; let us liberate ourselves from the evil that operates in ourselves, and we will receive its sublime protection, converting ourselves, together with it, into living agents of the Blessed Kingdom of God.

163

Let Us Learn from Jesus

"Bear with each other and forgive one another, if any of you have a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Paul (Colossians 3:13)

No common action is possible without the basis of tolerance.

Let us learn from the Christ.

The man identifies in his own body the law of cooperation, without which he would not remain on Earth.

If the stomach did not support the extravagances of the mouth, if the hands did not obey the impulses of the mind, if the feet did not tolerate the weight of the organic machine, the physical harmony would be totally impracticable.

The complaint disfigures the dignity of work, delaying its execution.

It is indispensable to cultivate the renunciation of small desires peculiar to us in order to conquer the capacity for sacrifice, which will structure in us the sublimation at higher levels.

If we want the work to elevate us, we need to elevate the work.

If we wish the task to help us, it is imperative that we prepare ourselves to do the task.

Let us remember that the supreme guide of the Christian service teams is Jesus. Within them, our opportunity to do something, constitutes, in itself, a valuable prize.

Let us, therefore, forget all evil, so as to build all the good within our reach.

In order to act according to these standards, it is imperative for us to tolerate each other as brothers, learning from the Lord, who has tolerated us infinitely.

164

Before God

"Our Father..."

Jesus (Matthew 6:9)

For Jesus, the existence of God offers no reason for quarrels and altercations.

He does not inquire about the nature of the Eternal.

He does not ask where He lives.

He does not see in Him the obscure and impersonal cause of the Universe.

He simply calls Him **"Our Father."**

In the moments of work and prayer, joy and suffering, He addresses the Supreme Lord, in the position of a loving and confident son.

The Master standardizes the attitude that is up to us before God.

Neither undue research. Neither hurried verification.

No improper demand. Nor a disrespectful definition.

When you pray, seek the secret chamber of your conscience and entrust yourself to God, as our Heavenly Father. Be sincere and faithful. In the condition of children in need, let us surrender to Him loyally.

Do not ask if God is a source that generates worlds, or a force that radiates lives. We still do not possess the intelligence capable of reflecting His greatness; though, we bring our heart, able to feel His love.

Let us seek, thus, Our Father, above all, and God, Our Father, will hear us.

165

Do not Doubt

"Because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown

and tossed by the wind."

James (James 1:6)

In your acts of faith and hope, do not allow the doubt to become interposed, as a shadow, between your need and the power of the Lord.

The coagulating force of your thoughts, in the accomplishments you undertake, proceeds from yourself, from your innermost soul, because only the one who trusts can persevere in the lifting of the steps that will lead him to the height he wishes to attain.

The doubt, on the external plane, can aid the experimentation, in this or that sector of material progress, but the hesitation in the inner world is the solvent of our best energies.

He who doubts himself disturbs the divine aid in himself.

No one can help the one who hampers himself.

Understanding the imposition of confidence, that should guide us forward, let us insist on the right, by looking for it with all possibilities within our reach.

Let us abandon the hurry and forget the discouragement.

It does not matter, whether our achievement emerges triumphant today or tomorrow.

It is worth working and doing the best we can, here and now, because life is responsible for bringing us what we seek.

Advancing without hesitation, loving, learning and serving untiringly - Here is the formula for successfully walking to the encounter of our victory.

And in this tireless pilgrimage, let us not forget that the doubt will always be the coldness of defeatism, leaning us towards negation and death.

166

Let Us Follow Him

"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness."

Jesus (John 8:12)

Many people admire the glory of Christ. Though, the pure and simple admiration can change into inoperative ecstasy.

Lots of people believe in the promises of the Lord. However, the belief alone can generate fanaticism and discord.

There is a great number of individuals who advocate the revelation of Jesus. Yet, the defense alone considered can generate sectarianism and blindness.

Plenty of them trust the Divine Master. Still, the stagnant confidence can be an inert force.

There are countless souls who wait for the Eternal Benefactor. Nevertheless, the expectation without work can be useless anxiety.

There are many people who praise the Savior. Exclusive praise, however, may coagulate the unproductive worship.

The word of the Heavenly Emissary, nonetheless, is clear and incisive: - **"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness."**

If you are fond of the Gospel, do not be outside the Christian service.

Let us seek the Lord, following His steps.

Solely then, will we be with the Christ, receiving His excellent light.

167

Let Us Observe Ourselves

"Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."

John (1 John 2:6)

There are those who claim to live with the goodness of Jesus, and do not hesitate to throw stones against the neighbor, through slander and cruelty.

There are those who affirm that they understand the optimism of the Divine Master, and do not waver in concentrating on the shadows of pessimism and despair.

There are those who proclaim the fraternity of Christ, encouraging the division and discord.

There are those who exalt the incessant work of the Lord in the expansion of the good, accommodating themselves in the hammocks of laziness and self- indulgence.

There are those who praise the simplicity of the Eternal Friend, complicating all the problems on their path.

There are those who glorify the patience of the Sublime Instructor, clinging to the gravel of aggression and intolerance.

If we affirm that we are learners of the Gospel, let us observe our own steps. Let us remember that the name of Jesus is pawned in our hands.

Understanding so, let us devote our love to the Divine Model.

When the Apostle declares to us:

"Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did." –

Naturally, he wishes to say:

- "He who declares himself a follower of Jesus, must certainly imitate His conduct, trying to live in the exemplification in which the Master lived."

168

Between the Cradle and the Grave

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Paul (2 Corinthians 4:18)

The flower that we see passes briefly, but the perfume that escapes us enriches the economy of the world.

The monument that dazzles us will suffer the insults of time; however, the invisible ideal that inspired it, shines, eternal, in the soul of the artist.

The Acropolis of Athens, admired by millions of eyes, is disappearing, little by little; even so, the Greek culture, which produced it, is immortal in the terrestrial glory.

The cross that the people imposed on Christ was an instrument of torture seen by all, but the spirit of the Lord, which no one sees, is a sun growing more and more, with the passing of the centuries.

Do not cling too much to the transient flesh.

Tomorrow, the childhood and youth of the body will be the maturity and old age of the form.

The land you keep today will inevitably be divided in the future.

The adornments you are proud of in the present will be dust and gray. The money that now serves you will pass later to hands different from yours.

Use what you see, to achieve what you still cannot see.

Between the cradle and the grave, the man keeps the usufruct of the earth, with the aim of perfecting himself.

Hence, do not attach to the deceitful cloak of beings and things.

By learning and struggling, working and serving, humbly and patiently in the building of the good, you will accumulate in your soul the riches of eternal life.

169

Let Us Search for Eternity

"Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we

are being renewed day by day."

Paul (2 Corinthians 4:16)

Do not feel distressed because of the changes in your physical equipment.

Let us seek Eternity.

Diseases do not reach the soul, when they do not attach themselves to the remorse of consciousness.

Old age does not touch the spirit when we seek to live in the light of immortality.

Youth is not a state of the flesh.

There are young men who travel in the world, bringing the heart full of dreadful ruins.

Let us remember that the inner man always renews himself. The striving enriches him with experience, the pain perfects his emotions and the sacrifice tempers his character.

The incarnate spirit undergoes constant transformations in the outside, in order to purify and aggrandize inside itself.

Remember that the stage on Earth is a simple spiritual journey.

Just as a traveler uses sandals, wearing them out on the way, our soul appropriates the forms, using them in the ascending march towards the Great Light.

Open, thus, the receiver of your heart to the sublime wave of the noblest ideals and the most beautiful thoughts and let us learn to live far from the termites of discouragement.

So, our spirit, even in the most advanced proofs of infirmity or agedness, will be like the radiant sun, manifesting itself in songs of work and joy, banishing the shadow and bitterness, wherever we are.

170

Labeling

"And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ."

Paul (Romans 8:9)

The labeling does not soothe. Let us look for the essence.

There are praises in memory of the Christ in many banners, which stimulate the animosity among brothers and sisters.

There are symbols of Christ, in many courts, which, on many occasions, only exalt injustice.

There are precious references to the Christ, in highly categorized voices of the earthly culture, which in the name of the Gospel, extend misery and ignorance.

There are oaths for the Christ, through conversations, that constitute vast corridors in the direction of darkness.

There are verbal invocations of the Christ, in purely commercial operations, which are dark attacks on the harmony of consciousness.

Let us meditate on the extent of our moral duties, in the circle of responsibilities that we have embraced with the Christian faith.

Jesus remains in images, posters, flags, medals, ornaments, songs, poems, narratives, speeches, sermons, studies, and arguments, but this is very little if we do not have His living teaching, in our conscience and heart.

It is always easy to express enthusiasm and conviction, brilliant vows and well-done phrases.

Though, let us take precautions against the danger of simple labeling.

As the Apostle, let us not forget that if we do not have the spirit of Christ, we find ourselves still considerably distant from Him.

171

Testimony

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps."

Peter (1 Peter 2: 21)

A great number of people complain of the moral endeavor, in which they feel involved, after the acceptance of the Gospel.

On different paths, they feel modified.

They no longer plunge into the dark chains of vanity.

They no longer take pleasure in pride.

They do not sympathize with selfishness anymore.

They do not worship discord any longer.

As a result of that, with an unswathed soul, for losing old wrappers of illusion, they recognize that their sensitivity sharpens more now, aggravating their woes of the journey in the material world.

They feel exposed to a painful process of dilapidation, and they admit that they suffer, more than others, very anguished trials. However, in the spiritual sublimation of which they offer testimony, other children of the Earth make contact with the Good News, discovering the excellence of the Christian life and extending its divine light.

If we find ourselves, then, in extreme maladjustments in the intimate life, before problems aroused by faith, let us overcome courageously the conflicts of the road, always opting for the sacrifice of ourselves, for the good of the whole.

This, because we were not brought into communion with Jesus simply for the act of believing, but to contribute to the extension of the Kingdom of God, at the price of our own renewal.

No one should recoil in the face of suffering. Let us learn to use it, for the edification of a more efficient life, in fruits of peace and light, service and fraternity, encouragement and joy, because, according to the Gospel, "to this you were called", with the example of the Divine Master, who renounced for our benefit, leaving for us the standard of spiritual height that we must attain.

172

Before the Liberating Christ

"Very truly I tell you, I am the gate.''

Jesus (John 10:7)

According to the lexicons, the word "door" means "an opening in a wall, at ground level, or at the base of a pavement, offering entry and exit."

Yet, symbolically, the world is full of misleading doors. They give entrance without offering an exit. Men search avidly for some of these doors and, anxious for the conquest of transitory possessions, they do not take precautions against the dangers they bring.

Many people knock on the door of the monetized wealth and, after being welcomed, they wake up, imprisoned in the torments of usury.

Countless people force the passage to the illusion of human power, and they awaken prisoners of the claws of grief.

Very many are those who cross the portal of earthly pleasures, and recognize themselves, from one moment to another, in the mesh of affliction and death.

A great number of people traverse the gates of public evidence, thirsting for popularity and influence, and finish confined in the dungeon of despair.

Christ, nevertheless, is the door of Abundant Life.

With Him, we submit to the designs of Heavenly Father and, in this guideline, we accept existence as learning and service, in favor of our own growth for the Immortality.

See, therefore, which door you pursue in the daily striving, once only by the intermediary of Christ's teachings will you reach the path of true liberation.

173

Before the Light of Truth

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Jesus (John 8:32)

The Master's word is clear and secure.

We will not be freed by the "aspects of truth" or the "provisional truths" that we detain in the circle of passionate affirmations we dedicate ourselves.

Numerous people in politics, philosophy, science, and religion are fond of certain angles of the truth and turn their own lives into a trench of desperate combat, on the pretext of defending it, when they are mere prisoners of the “point of view’."

Many accept the truth, extend its lessons, advocate its cause, and proclaim its merits; nonetheless, the liberating truth is that which we know in the ceaseless activity of the Eternal Good.

Penetrating the truth is to understand the obligations that fall to us.

Discerning the truth is to renew one's own comprehension, and to convert the existence into a field of responsibility toward the best.

True freedom only exists in the submission to the duty faithfully fulfilled.

Knowing, therefore, the truth, means perceiving the meaning of life.

Realizing the meaning of life is growing in constant service and improvement.

Observe, thus, your position before the Light...

Who only glimpses the dazzling glory of reality, speaks much, and acts less.

Who, however, penetrates its indefinable greatness, acts more and speaks less.

174

Extended Hands

"Stretch forth your hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole to the other."

Mark 3:5

In all houses of religious faith, there are believers with outstretched hands, supplicating help...

Afflicted souls reveal anxiety, weakness, hopelessness, and diseases of the heart.

Are not we all, incarnate and disincarnated, that ask the Divine Providence for something, just like the man with the shriveled hand?

Stuck in the labyrinth created by ourselves, here we are claiming the assistance of the Divine Master...

We should, though, consider our attitude.

It is fair to ask, and no one can restrain any manifestations of humility, repentance, or intercession.

Still, it is indispensable to examine the way of receiving.

Plenty of people await the materialized response of Jesus:

This man awaits money; another one counts on the sudden social evidence; that woman requires the immediate transformation of circumstances on the terrestrial path...

Let us note, yet, the help of the Master to the paralytic.

Jesus asks that he stretches out the shriveled hand, and, once it is stretched out, He does not confer him gold bags or privilege tokens. He heals it.

He gives him back the work opportunity.

The recovered hand at that moment remains as empty as before.

It is that the Christ restored to him the blessed opportunity to work, conquering sacred accomplishments by himself; He sent him to the redemptive toils of goodness, in which he should grow and build himself.

The lesson is expressive for all the temples of the Christian community.

When you extend your hands to the Lord, do not expect easiness, gold, prerogatives...

Learn to receive His assistance, because the Divine Love will restore your energies, but it will not provide you any escape from the accomplishments of your own effort.

175

Change

"And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem."

Luke 9:53

This passage of Luke is very noteworthy. As the Samaritans noticed that Jesus and the disciples were heading to Jerusalem, they refused to receive them.

They identified them by the appearance.

If they were travelers destined for other places, the Samaritans might have offered them accommodation, comfort, joy...

Does not the same phenomenon happen nowadays, with the true followers of the Master?

Jerusalem, for us, symbolizes here a testimony of faith.

Someone just decides to go resolutely to such spiritual dominion, and the ordinary men, disoriented and quarrelsome, close the doors of their heart for him.

The careless ones, who head in the direction of easy pleasures, find immediate welcoming among the new Samaritans of the world.

Restless women, the well-kept but spiritually ill, and the misleading men have, for the time being on the Earth, a pompous group of companions.

Though, he the apprentice of Jesus awakens on the human road, seeing that it is indispensable to bear testimony of his confidence

in God and deny old caprices, he is most often constrained to proceed alone. It is due to the fact that, usually, on such occasions, the man presents modifications.

He does not give the common impression of the individual in search of satisfaction.

He is determined to renounce his own defects and to annul them, by the strokes of immense effort, in order to embrace the redemptive cross, which will identify him with the Divine Master.

For this reason, generally, even with the doors inwards in his home, he will not be fully recognized, because his aspect has undergone a profound metamorphosis... He shows the sign of who took the

course of the definitive spiritual renewal for God, willing to consecrate himself to the eternal good and to elevate his heart on the great path...

176

Need for Good

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Paul (Hebrews 10:24)

Innumerable institutions of Christian life, very respected for their programs and foundations, suffer incalculable losses due to the levity with which many companions observe each other.

Here, some comments on the debasing past of those who today seek to recover dignifiedly; there, small unhappy gestures are analyzed, through the dark lenses of sarcasm and criticism...

Yet, indiscriminate reproach and disapproval, are poured into the ideal's family, as a rain of corrosives on the plantation, annihilating nascent germs, destroying lush flowers and poisoning fruits, destined for the granaries of common progress.

It is never too much to repeat the need for forgiveness, kindness, and optimism, in our ranks and activities.

We should remember that with our help, everything may be better today than yesterday, and tomorrow everything will be better than today.

Evil, in any circumstance, is disharmony at the head of the Law, and every imbalance results in difficulty and suffering.

Let us examine one another, by kindling the light of fraternity, so that the fraternity enlightens our destinies.

Without perseverance in the good, there is no path to happiness.

For this reason, the Apostle Paul recommended: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Because only in this direction will we be serving the construction of Love’s Kingdom.

177

Wealth in Heaven

"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."

Jesus (Matthew 6:20)

Whoever grieves unduly, seeing the triumph and prosperity of many ruthless and selfish men, in the background shows envy, revolt, ambition, and hopelessness. This must not be this way!

After all, who can declare to have the advantages of the Earth with the due merit?

If we observe men and women, stripped of any moral scruples, holding transient values of the world, let us, on the contrary, feel sorry for them.

The word of Christ is clear and indisputable.

"Gather up treasures in heaven," said the Lord.

This means "Let us accumulate intimate values to commune the eternal glory!"

Ephemeral will always be the gallery of carnal evidence.

Physical beauty, temporary power, transient property and the monetized fortune, can be a simple attribute of the human mask, which time transforms, indefatigable.

Let us gather up goodness and culture, understanding and sympathy.

Without the treasury of personal education, our entrance in the heavens would be useless, because we would not be in the correct tune to respond to the appeals of Superior Life.

Let us grow in virtue and incorporate true wisdom, because tomorrow you will be visited by the leveling hand of death, and you will have solely the noble or demeaning qualities that you have installed in yourself.

178

Reverence and Piety

"Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe."

Paul (Hebrews 12:28)

"Let us serve God, cheerfully," asks the Apostle, but he does not forget to accentuate the way by which we should serve Him.

We ought not to spread sadness on the tasks of good.

All the elements of Nature obey the laws of the Lord, revealing joy.

The constellation shines into the night.

The Sun overflows with heat and light.

The Earth is covered with flowers and green. Has the source a peculiar ditty.

Sings the bird, melodies of praise.

It would not be fair, therefore, to bring pessimism and bitterness to the service that the Master assigns us.

The contentment of helping is one of the signs of our faith. Nonetheless, it is necessary that our joy does not become excessive.

Neither improper noise nor misconceptions.

Neither unworthy words, nor the laughter that could only suggest sarcasm and contempt.

Let us serve merrily, with reverence and pity. Reverence for the Lord, and pity towards the neighbor.

You cannot personify the All-Merciful to please Him, but we can serve Him daily, in the person of our brothers of struggle.

So, let us drive the car of our work on the rails of the respect and charity, and we will find, in our favor, the joy that never ceases.

179

Let Us Observe Our Hands

"... He showed them his hands..."

John 20:20

As He reappeared to the disciples, after death, behold, Jesus, when identifying Himself, lets them see His injured body, showing them the hands in particular...

The hands that had restored the sight to the blind, lifted the paralytic, cured the sick, and had blessed children and old men, had the marks of the sacrifice.

Pierced through by crucifixion nails, they reminded Him of the supreme renunciation.

The hands of the Divine Worker did not collect from the world solely callus from the intensive effort in the plow of good. They received bloody and painful wounds.

The teaching reminds us of the hands' activity in every place of the Globe.

The heart inspires.

The brain thinks.

Hands accomplish.

Everywhere, the human life is shaken by the hands that command and obey.

Hands that guide, sow, build, caress, help and teach...

And hands that kill, hurt, stone, beat, burn, curse...

We all have in our hands, live antennas, through which the spiritual life manifests itself.

Reflect, thus, on what you do, every day.

Do not forget that beyond death, our hands will display the signs of our passage through the Earth.

The hands of the Christ, the Eternal Benefactor, revealed the wounds obtained in the divine cultivation of love.

Yours, tomorrow, will also speak of you, in the spiritual world, where, once interrupted the earthly experience, each one receives the blessings or the lessons of life, in accordance with his own deeds.

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Christmas

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on Earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:14

The angelic legions, next to the Manger, announcing the Great Renovator, did not present any word of violence.

Glory to God in the Divine Universe.

Peace on Earth.

Goodwill towards the Men.

The Supreme Father, by bequeathing the new era of security and tranquility to the world, did not declare the Celestial Ambassador vested with powers to injure or destroy.

No punishment for the avaricious rich.

No punitive measures for the desperate and poor. Nor disdain for the weak.

Nor condemnation to sinners.

Nor hostility towards the proud Pharisee. Nor anathema to the unconscious gentile.

It was poured out the Divine Treasure, by the hands of Jesus, for the service of Goodwill.

The justice of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" had finally found the Love willing to the sublime renunciation until the cross.

Men and animals, stunned by the rising light in the stable, felt inexpressible joy...

From that unforgettable moment, the Earth would be renewed.

The executioner would be worthy of pity.

The enemy would become a lost brother.

The criminal would pass into the condition of a sick.

In Rome, people would gradually eliminate the carnage in circuses.

In Sidon, slaves would no longer have their eyes pierced by the cruelty of the masters.

In Jerusalem, the sick would no longer be relegated to abandonment in the valleys of filth.

Jesus brought with Him the message of true fraternity and, by revealing it, He passed victoriously, from the straw crib to the bloody wood.

My brother, who hears at Christmas the gentle echoes of the miraculous song of the angels, remember that the Master has come in order that we love one another.

Christmas! Good news! Goodwill!

Let us extend sympathy to everyone, and really begin to live with Jesus, under the splendors of a new day.